Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iran, Iraq Said Holding Secret Rapprochement Talks

TA2410193695 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 23 Oct 95 pp 1,15

["Exclusive" AL-MANAR report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dubayy — Iran and Iraq are on their way to forming an alliance. Some of the steps that have been taken affirm a shift in relations between Tehran and Baghdad. This could lead to the restoration of normal relations between the two neighboring countries and an end to the state of tension and war between them, which has lasted more than 15 years.

A high-level Gulf source told AL-MANAR that there is a lot of evidence affirming an Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement and that the recent media attacks between the two countries were only meant to cover up contacts and consultations between them. The Gulf source expects very important developments to take place in the Gulf area against the background of this shift, which surprised observers.

AL-MANAR has learned that Iran has begun return to Iraq equipment and weapons that reached Iran during the Gulf war. Moreover, Tehran is getting ready to return the warplanes that were transferred to Iran during this war.

It has been learned that trucks loaded with spare parts have arrived in Baghdad from Tehran and that economic agreements have recently been signed between the two sides. Furthermore, secret meetings were held between them, beginning with a secret meeting in an East European capital between a senior Iranian and a senior Iraqi envoy. Later, the meetings continued on Iraqi and Iranian soil. Observers say that events which may surprise Arab and international political circles will take place in the region shortly and that Iranian cells and secret Iraqi elements are operating in the Arab Gulf states.

A Gulf diplomatic source was cited to AL-MANAR as having said that secret contacts have been held between Gulf leaders on one hand and Tehran and Baghdad on the other and that developments will occur in certain Gulf arenas.

The source added that a senior military official in one of the Gulf states attempted to stage a revolution, but the incident was covered up. The source said that the Iranian-Iraqi rapprochement and the Gulf channels with Tehran and Baghdad could lead to military operations by Iran and Iraq in many directions.

The source did not rule out assassinations and violent acts in certain Gulf arenas, especially during certain festive and religious seasons, with the aim of causing confusion in these arenas.

Iraqi League Envoy Welcomes UAE Call on Sanctions

NC2410160495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, welcomed the recent call made by United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to lift the siege imposed on the Iraqi people and his statement that the time has come for Arab reconciliation.

In press statements after his meeting today with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Dr. Najm described Shaykh Zayid's stand as a "wise and courageous one." He said that his country has welcomed this candid stand and the other Arab stands that followed the same policy on the need to lift the unjust siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi envoy went on to say that he [and the Arab League secretary general] reviewed the latest developments in the Arab region, particularly Shaykh Zayid's call to lift the siege imposed on Iraq.

In reply to a question on the possibility of discussing this issue during the meeting that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is holding now with the permanent envoys, Dr. Najm said that the envoys' meeting will only discuss the Arab League's financial situation and the member states' payment of their contributions.

In reply to another question on Iraq's relations with the UAE, he said that Iraq has not severed its relations with the UAE because they are bound together by a common fate and joint interests and that diplomatic relations have not been severed officially. He added that channels of communication between Iraq and the Arab countries continue within the framework of the Arab League and through bilateral ties.

Ministers Reject Iraqi Request To Lift Siege

NC2410190995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—The Executive Bureau of the Arab Transport Ministers Council [ATMC], comprised of the transport ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, and Syria has refused to include an Iraqi memorandum on the agenda

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of the 11th session of the ATMC that starts tomorrow, Wednesday [25 October].

The memorandum has nine points, the most important demands discussion on lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq, its effects on the Iraqi people, and the maritime, land, and air transport sectors there.

Kuwaiti Transport Minister Jasim al-'Awn said at the conclusion of the Executive Bureau's meeting today that the Iraqi memorandum consists of two parts. One is political and concerns lifting the embargo, and the other is technical and concerns training in all sectors of transport. He added that, in coordination with the ATMC members, the Kuwaiti delegation rejected the political part of the memorandum because it is outside ATMC jurisdiction. Concerning the technical part, ATMC asked the Iraqi delegation to prepare a detailed memorandum on issues it wants to address on transport training and to submit it to the technical committees of the ATMC. [passage omitted]

League Chief Asks Libya To Allow Deportees Back

NC2410175895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he contacted brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by telephone today about the Palestinian deportees on the Egyptian- Libyan borders.

He said he asked Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to address this issue and to spare the Palestinian brothers any more difficulties. He added that he proposed to Col. al-Qadhdhafi to allow the return of these deportees and let them stay for three months while this situation is studied.

Envoys Discuss Arab League's Financial Crisis

NC2410190795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has sent messages to the Arab foreign ministers appealing to them to quickly settle their countries' arrears in the Arab League budget, particularly the countries that have not paid their contributions.

In a statement today after the meeting of the permanent envoys, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the meeting focused on the League's financial crisis. He noted that some countries offered to reschedule the debts that are not disputed by the Arab countries in installments in implementation of the Arab League Council's decision.

A responsible Arab League source said that the member states' undisputed arrears total $80.5 million, in addition to $25 million disputed by nine Arab countries. It added that the contributions to the 1995-96 budget that have already been paid total $16 million, that is 61.9 per cent of the total budget of $26.6 million.

The source noted that 10 countries have not paid their share of this year's budget, five others have voiced reservations about their shares, and five countries have special circumstances and cannot pay their share at present. In addition, 12.5 percent of the budget is not paid on time, thus preventing the Arab League organs from doing their work.

The source said the Arab League's budget in 1985 was $32 million while this year's is $26.6 million, which means a reduction of almost $5.4 million.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference in UK Criticizes UN

LD2410121295 Tehran IRNA in English 1154 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Oct. 24, IRNA — Islamic states of the future will have to leave the United Nations because of the mutual incompatibility of the civilisations of Islam and the west, Muslims at an international conference here were told. The most dangerous functions of the UN were said to be the strategies to force western domination on every aspect of every community in the world by the promotion of global economic ventures, global media and global culture.

At a one-day conference Sunday [22 October] organised by the Muslim Parliament of Britain to mark the 50th anniversary of the world body, delegates presented a dismal record of the UN stretching from Hiroshima to Sarajevo.

In its final declaration, the warning was that a global struggle for civilisational supremacy between the west and Islam had already begun and was likely to be long and bitter.

Muslim member states of the UN, it said, had become parts of the west's mechanisms for controlling the world of Islam, where there was an absence of formal structures that could constitute a source of strength for the global Islamic movement.

The international conference at London University rejected the idea of an 'Islamic alternative' to the world body set up by the victorious nations of World War Two, saying that there was neither the prospect nor the need.

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When Islam required such structures, it was suggested that instead they would be shaped by the power of Islam in the conditions of time.

In the meantime, the more than 1,500 Muslims at the conference were called upon to reject the UN claims to be a world body or having any relevance to the global agenda of the Islamic movement.

The declaration urged the Muslim world to oppose the presence influence and work of the UN, predicting that Islamic states of the future would have to leave the world body because of its incompatibility with Islam.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 17 Oct

NC2410151195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mufti Says Failure To Vote is Betrayal of Trust
2. Writer Urges Ulema To Unite
3. Al-Azhar Imam Urges Iran Not To Export Revolution
4. Cairo University Ignores Religious Activity
5. Writer Calls for Keeping Alcohol Ban on Flights
6. Jewish Uproar Over New Book Viewed
7. Reviving Mosque's Role Urged

MUFTI SAYS FAILURE TO VOTE IS BETRAYAL OF TRUST

In an approximately 500-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 7, Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi is quoted as saying that abstention from voting in elections is a "betrayal of trust." Dr. Tantawi urges all citizens in Egypt to cast their votes in the upcoming People's Assembly elections to fulfill their obligations and choose whomever they deem fit for their "religion and life." He points out that voting is a trust that people must honor to serve their religion and community.

WRITER URGES ULEMA TO UNITE

Samir Rajab, chairman of the board of 'AQIDATI, in his regular 400-word column on page 1 urges the ulema to stand in one line to face up to allegations of "falsehood" and "deception" and confront those who use religion as a means to serve their subjective and "sick" goals. Rajab points out that it is unreasonable for the clergymen, who are supposed to view the "luxuries" of life differently from other people, to be mainly concerned about gaining "money." Addressing the eminent ulema without naming any, Rajab adds: "You will never be convincing to the masses who see your faces on television screens or see you standing on the pulpits of mosques if they realize that you say one thing and do something else. Is it reasonable for you to urge the people to avoid gossip or slander, for instance, while in your private and public sessions you ridicule one another and exchange the ugliest accusations?" Concluding, he urges the ulema to set genuine examples for the people to follow.

AL-AZHAR IMAM URGES IRAN NOT TO EXPORT REVOLUTION

In an unattributed 50-word report on page 1, al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq calls on Iran not to "export its Islamic revolution to other peoples." Speaking in a meeting with an adviser to the Iranian president, his eminence called on nations not to export their own jurisprudential doctrines to other Islamic countries and to let people worship their God according to their own doctrine.

CAIRO UNIVERSITY IGNORES RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY

In an approximately 350-word report on page 7, Tariq 'Abdallah writes on the beginning of Cairo University's cultural and artistic activity. He remarks that there is a noticeable absence of religious seminars and debates in this year's schedule of events, unlike last year, when leading ulema and intellectuals were invited to speak to students. 'Abdallah regrets the absence of any religious seminars, which proved to be very successful last year. He notes that the country is passing through an important stage and that university officials should give more attention to attracting youths to genuine religious beliefs so that they will not fall prey to the claws of "terrorism and extremism."

WRITER CALLS FOR KEEPING ALCOHOL BAN ON FLIGHTS

Columnist Majdi Salim, in an approximately 600-word article on page 10, praises Egyptair's acquisition of new long-distance planes to modernize the company's fleet and open new routes to Japan and Australia. However, he notes that there are rumors within the company that Egyptair's regional manager in Japan is demanding the serving of alcohol on the new planes, claiming that the Japanese cannot travel without drinking. According to the rumors, Egypt's national carrier will start training the flight attendants on serving alcohol.

The writer recalls how pilots and flight attendants in 1983 took Egyptair to court and demanded that they should not be forced into serving alcohol. As a result, a court order was passed banning the serving of alcohol

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on all Egyptair flights. Since then, the writer adds, the ban has been in force, except on some charter and long-distance flights, where passengers were allowed to bring their own drinks aboard the planes. The writer adds that it seems Egyptair is heading for a violation of the court ban and for a "crisis" with the pilots and flight attendants. The new planes, he adds, need 140 flight attendants. Due to the rumors about serving alcohol, only 40 have applied for the job, despite the excellent benefits offered. Concluding, the writer hopes that Egyptair will deny these rumors and reaffirm its commitment to the 1983 court order.

JEWISH UPROAR OVER NEW BOOK VIEWED

In an approximately 400-word article on page 20, 'Adil Dayf notes that every now and then Jews create an uproar over certain books, which they accuse of being anti-Semitic. He notes that the purpose of these campaigns is to extort the people of the world, as they did with the Germans, whom they accused of killing approximately 6 million Jews. The writer notes that historians very much doubt this figure and whenever politicians or historians try to correct this exaggeration, they become the subject of "ferocious" defamation campaigns.

The latest uproar, the writer adds, concerns a Christian book published by "Saint Paul Brothers Society," which the Jews accused of containing anti-Semitic language. A Paris court is scheduled to issue a verdict on the dispute this month, the writer adds. Concluding, Dayf notes that this story shows that the "Jews want to control everything and that they stand behind any campaign that seeks to undermine those who dare mention anything against them." The writer notes that before counselling others about anti-Semitism, the Jews must "stop their hatred of Arabs and mankind, give the Palestinian Arab people their full rights, withdraw from Jerusalem and give it back to its original owners, and stop Jeudaizing Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories."

REVIVING MOSQUE'S ROLE URGED

'AQIDATI Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, in an approximately 600-word column on page 24, explains that mosques in Islam are not just worshipping places, but institutions for religious, social, and even patriotic action. He cites as an example how al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo acted as a "bastion of resistance" during the French invasion of Egypt in 1798 and how the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir used al-Azhar's pulpit during the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956 to declare Egypt's refusal to surrender. He adds: "This is how the mosque has served as a minaret and institution in support of national resistance and a birth place for all social reform movements that follow enlightenment as a program and revival of genuine religious concepts as a method of action. This is the role we must strive to achieve with full vigor, determination, and dedication, so that the mosque may regain its role and stature in keeping a high spirit, pooling resources, and keeping the wheel of national action in motion." 'Abd-al-Ra'uf notes that although this is not an easy task, it is not impossible. He explains that to call for unifying all the institutions concerned with religious and educational work would be difficult in the present circumstances and to settle for mere coordination among them would be inadequate. What is required, he adds, is something more than coordination and less than unification, particularly since anti-Islamic organizations and institutions, diverse as they may be, always unite when "striking Islam and weakening the Muslims" is their objective. In conclusion, he writes: "We are not calling for antagonizing any faction or declaring war against any group. We are calling for declaring war against division, fragmentation, and backwardness."

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Warns Against U.S. Embassy Move

NC2410182595 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 24 (AFP) — The PLO warned Washington on Tuesday [24 October] against transferring the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, saying it would jeopardise its role in the peace process.

"If such a measure were implemented it would mean that the United States would no longer be able to play the role of an impartial mediator in the Middle East peace process which would put it in grave danger," Faysal al-Husayni, who is in charge of the Jerusalem file within the Palestinian Authority, told AFP.

US President Bill Clinton has already threatened to veto the bill to transfer the embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city saying it would undermine Washington's role in the peace process. The United States and Russia co—sponsor the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

But late Monday, potential US presidential candidate and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole watered down his bill after it went before the US Senate. He cut out a requirement that work on a new embassy should start before the end of 1996, and introduced an unlimited number of six-month waivers if the President decides they are "necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States."

Al-Husayni said the Palestinian Authority was very concerned by the current Senate debate adding: "We

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call on the US Administration not to deviate from the traditional position and not to take part in the issue of Jerusalem's status."

Israel and the PLO are due to open talks on the final status of the Palestinian territories and Jerusalem in May 1996. The Palestinians claim the east part captured and annexed by Israel in 1967 as a capital of any future state. But the Jewish state has declared the holy city its eternal and undivided capital, even though it has failed to win international recognition.

Palestinian labour "minister" Samir Ghawshah said transferring the embassy would "violate UN resolutions which state that (east) Jerusalem is an occupied territory. "The city is holy to all religions and is part of the Palestinian territories," he added.

Only [El] Salvador and Costa Rica have embassies in Jerusalem.

U.S. Jerusalem Bill Termed 'Blatant Interference'

JN2410140595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah said the U.S. Senate's approval of a bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a violation of all UN resolutions. Dr. Ghawshah said the bill is a blatant interference in Palestinian affairs and is biased toward the Israeli side.

Dr. Ghawshah said the question of Jerusalem does not only concern the Palestinians, but it is also of interest to the Arabs and the world at large, since Jerusalem is holy for all religions and is part of Palestinian territory. Dr. Ghawshah cited UN resolutions which deem Jerusalem occupied Palestinian territory.

U.S. 'Guarantees' Not To Move Embassy Sought

JN2410180695 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by "AL-YAWM bureau" in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held intensive contacts over the past two days [20-19 October] with a number of the foreign ministers of the Jerusalem Committee member states, most of whom are taking part in the current Nonaligned Movement's summit in Colombia. During these contacts, it was agreed that it is possible to hold a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations 50th anniversary celebrations in New York.

Palestinian sources in Cairo told AL-YAWM that 'Arafat will ask the foreign ministers to request the Security Council and the United Nations to oppose any measures that might be taken by some states to move their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Committee members will also ask for sufficient guarantees by the U.S. Administration not to move its embassy to Jerusalem and to reject Israeli attempts to impose a new reality in Jerusalem before the beginning of the second phase of negotiations, during which the final status of the city will be decided. It should be noted that there are resolutions issued by the Arab League and the Conference of Islamic Organization to impose Arab and Islamic sanctions on any state that moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The sources said that 'Arafat will submit a direct request to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to set up an international fact- finding committee to investigate the Israeli practices in Jerusalem and its continued seizure of real estate and lands belonging to Palestinians in the city.

Al-Husayni: Move Shows 'Change' in U.S. Stand

JN2410161595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, National Authority [NA] official in charge of the Jerusalem file, called on the NA to continue to adhere to its firm position on the Jerusalem issue and not to take any measures regarding the city until the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are over, in order to preserve the credibility of the U.S. role in the peace process. Al-Husayni's statements came in response to the decision by the U.S. Congress to discuss the bill proposed by Bob Dole, leader of the Republican Majority in the U.S. Senate, regarding the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni warned that this bill jeopardizes the entire political process. He pointed out that the PLO-Israeli agreements signed under U.S. sponsorship stipulate that negotiations on Jerusalem and other issues will be discussed in the final stage of the talks. This means that at this stage no party can take single-handed measures which may affect the final outcome of the negotiations.

Al-Husayni added: We, therefore, look very seriously upon the discussions held at the U.S. Congress regarding the transfer of the U.S. embassy. If the transfer were to take place, it would indicate a change in the U.S. firm position, which had given credibility to the United States in assuming the role of the mediator and faithful sponsor of the peace process.

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Trade Accord With U.S. Called 'Positive Step'

TA2410163595 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Oct 95 p 13

[Editorial: "A Positive Step in Support of the Palestinian Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The announcement of a free trade agreement between the United States and the Palestinian National Authority constitutes another step in support of the Palestinian economy. This step was taken with the beginning of the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo accord and is expected to have a positive impact in terms of promoting Palestinian exports to the United States. Consequently, it will help Palestinian industrial and agricultural products to reach high international standards of quality and will encourage the establishment of factories and agricultural projects in various spheres.

The condition attached to the agreement, epitomized by the securing of Palestinian support for lifting the Arab boycott of Israel, does not reduce the agreement's importance. This is because both the United States and Israel know that the Arab boycott is subject to political considerations on the Arab level. These considerations are determined according to Arab convictions or by individual countries. No Arab state can impose its positions or convictions on other Arab states. It is certain that the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace, however, will be a good beginning for lifting this boycott.

Although this condition may have been attached deliberately to demonstrate to Israel's supporters inside and outside the United States some kind of balance in U.S. policy, the agreement itself is a model and an example that must be followed by all countries and international forces concerned with the peace process, especially the donor countries. They should not only announce similar agreements but also support the various economic and service projects that are currently being planned in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The real concepts of peace are not limited to written agreements alone but rather must be developed to include the creation of firm economic facts which will improve the living standards of the residents. At the same time, they must coincide with the political and geographic developments of the Taba accord, which has entered the implementation stage. This should lead to the realization of Palestinian national aspirations and the achievement of stability, tranquillity, and prosperity for the Palestinian people.

'Arafat To U.S. Jews: Hamas Not To Run in Elections

TA2410163395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat met in New York with nine former leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The participants said the meeting was candid and direct. In the meeting, 'Arafat said Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will not take part in the elections for the Palestinian Authority and vowed to keep his promise to abolish the Palestinian Covenant after the elections. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the Jewish leaders accepted 'Arafat's invitation to visit Gaza.

'Official' Source: Elections Planned for 20 Jan

NC2310173195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official diplomatic source in Cairo has stated that as demanded by the Palestinians in Taba agreement, the Palestinian elections will be held on 20 January, before the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan. The source said the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all West Bank cities will be completed before the end of December. Concerning the Palestinian city of Hebron, the source said that in accordance with a host of political considerations, what was agreed to between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Taba agreement will be implemented, and the timetable will be respected.

Hamas Official Clarifies Political Party Decision

NC2410193495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, brother 'Imad al-Faluji [Hamas activist in Gaza] was cited as saying that a decision turning Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] into a political party was made. What information do you have and can you comment on this?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have the following to say about brother al-Faluji's statements as we read and heard them: First, there is an unclear point in his statements; namely, that the Hamas movement become a party. This is inaccurate. The movement will form a party, will produce a party that will be involved in political activity.

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This is the right thing to do and indeed one of Hamas' decisions. But the party will not be an alternative to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Second, while it agreed to form a political party, Hamas also decided not to participate in the self-rule elections. When the party is launched, therefore, its political program will not conflict with that of the movement. If the movement has decided not to contest the elections, the party will abide by this position. The elections, which are scheduled to take place before the month of Ramadan, come as an implementation of the Oslo agreement; they are one of Oslo's mechanisms. As Hamas rejects the Oslo agreement, it naturally rejects its mechanisms.

As regards brother 'Imad al-Faluji, we previously explained that the statements he makes by no means represent the movement; they reflect his personal views. The movement expresses itself either by its official statements or through its official spokesman. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Al-Faluji also said that the Yasir 'Arafat-led PLO and representatives of Hamas will meet in Khartoum in one month. How true is this, and what is the agenda of the talks?

[Ghawshah] According to our information, the ball is still in the court of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Dr. Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front] extended an invitation to Hamas, and the movement accepted it. The PA, however, has not yet explained its position.

[Correspondent] Thank you Ibrahim Ghawshah for giving our program this opportunity.

[Ghawshah] Thank you and God bless you.

'Arafat Interviewed Before Visiting Brazil

PY2510024095 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 18 Oct 95 pp 50, 51, 52, and 53

["Exclusive" interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by VEJA special correspondent William Waack, in the Gaza Strip, "a few days before" 'Arafat's departure on an official visit to Brazil]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Waack] Do you believe Israel is complying with the promises made in the peace agreements signed recently in Washington?

['Arafat] I hope it complies with the promises, but there are many difficulties. The Israelis insist they don't have to comply with everything they have signed.

[Waack] Are you referring to releasing the female prisoners?

['Arafat] This is one of the examples. It had been established that they would all be released right after the agreements were signed, but this has not occurred.

[Waack] Among those who were to be released was Brazilian Lamia Maruf Hassan. How do you plan to press the Israeli Government to release her?

['Arafat] I want all female prisoners to be released, as had been established when the agreements were signed. As to the others, they should be released in three stages: the first group right after the agreement were signed; the second group a short while before the elections (of the 82-member Palestinian Council, which will probably take place in November); and the third one later on.

[Waack] You have been saying that this attitude on the part of the Israeli Government only helps strengthen the forces that oppose the Palestinian Government in the territories under your administration.

['Arafat] This is our main problem. By not complying with the terms of the agreement, the Israeli Government very much strengthens the groups that oppose me.

[Waack] Is the opposition you must face here strong enough to create serious difficulties if the agreements are not complied with?

['Arafat] We are in a democracy and must accept listening to what the opposition has to say. I am furious about the Israeli attitude and quite shocked by the fact that they are not complying with what they promised to do.

[Waack] What do you plan to do?

['Arafat] We are in permanent contact with those who sponsored the peace agreements, i.e., with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, with the EU, with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and with the Jordanians.

[Waack] Why isn't Israel complying with the terms of the agreement?

['Arafat] There are certain forces, particularly among the Israeli generals, that do not want the peace process to advance. In addition to the extreme right, of course.

[Waack] You have been criticized for not effectively fighting the terrorists who attack Israel from the territory under Palestinian authority.

['Arafat] It is nonsense to criticize me for that. Some of the main groups of fanatics and extremists were established precisely in the territories occupied by Israel. Israel has financed them and given them weapons. Why hasn't Israel been able to disarm these groups before our arrival? One must be fair and understand the facts. We did all we had to in order to control the terrorists, and

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were thus able to prevent several of their actions through our security services. The Israelis know this very well.

[Waack] Are the security forces of the Palestinian Government cooperating with the Israelis?

['Arafat] Within the framework of the peace process, we have a sort of coordination, but as can be seen, the attitude of the Israeli forces is not aimed at preserving this process. They are interested in sabotaging peace.

[Waack] For 30 years, you have tirelessly traveled the world as a revolutionary. You seem very tired after only one year as head of government of an entity that will become a country.

['Arafat] Tired? What is the meaning of tired? I am not tired at all. I am naturally working very much because my current responsibilities are entirely different. We are receiving our land back, and the infrastructure of this territory has been destroyed. We have to start from zero. In some cases, we have to start from less than zero. Everything has been destroyed. We are now forced to make our schools function in three daily shifts. No school has been improved. Not a single bed has been added to the hospitals in the 28 years of occupation. This is not all; they continue to create obstacles for us, like their decision to close the borders. As a result, we lose nearly $6 million dollars per day. They are creating difficulties even for diplomats who want to talk to me.

[Waack] You have often said that you would like to pray in East Jerusalem when it becomes the capital of a Palestinian state.

['Arafat] Not in East Jerusalem, but in all of Jerusalem. We decided that our participation in the peace conference in Madrid in 1991 would be based on a platform that included two UN resolutions — resolutions 242 and 338. They refer to all the areas occupied by Israel since 1967, including the holy city.

[Waack] Do you believe you will pray in Jerusalem in any foreseeable future?

['Arafat] I certainly do.

[Waack] Would you risk saying when that would happen?

['Arafat] No.

[Waack] What type of state are you thinking of when you talk about the future Palestinian state?

['Arafat] We have the advantage that our people's level of education is very high. Our level of education surpasses even that of the people who have occupied our land. Nowadays, the number of Palestinians taking post-graduate courses is proportionally higher than the number of Israelis.

[Waack] Will the children who have grown up during the time of the Intifada (Palestinian rebellion in the occupied territories, which began in 1987) be able to live without hatred and in peace with their neighbors?

['Arafat] We are developing a huge rehabilitation program for these children. We will all have to forget hatred and suffering. To us, this tragedy began in 1948. This is when it started for all of our people. Just imagine how many generations have suffered.

[Waack] Do you believe that the younger Palestinians understand you when you insist on being calm and patient and on adopting the tactic of taking only one step after another?

['Arafat] Yes, I do.

[Waack] What influence do the Islamic groups who try to continue conducting military actions against Israel have?

['Arafat] There are some Arab and Islamic countries behind these actions. Most of our people, however, understand the current situation quite clearly.

[Waack] Is it true that shortly before your plane accident in the Libyan desert you had a vision and that, only as a result of this vision, you decided to participate in the peace process?

['Arafat] I have had two visions. One with my friend Abu Jihad (PLO military chief killed in 1988 by Israeli commandos) who was murdered. The other one was with the Al Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem. I interpreted these visions certain that I would have been part of them. Nevertheless, I did not participate in the peace process simply because of these visions, but as a result of a decision made by our parliament in 1991.

'Arafat Meets King Husayn, Saudi Defense Minister

JN2210201495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Arafat met with King Husayn of Jordan at the UN headquarters. He also held talks this evening with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's deputy prime minister and defense minister, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister. He discussed with them the latest developments in the peace process following an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, the occupation troops' withdrawal from the Palestinian populated areas, and the National Authority's assumption of its security and civilian tasks.

'Arafat also met with the Palestinian community in the United States. During the meeting, $400,000 in

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donations were collected to improve health services at the Khan Yunus Hospital in the Gaza Strip and at the 'Aliyah Hospital in Hebron.

Palestinian Opposition Leaders Meet in Libya

MM2410144195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shaqaqi, Abu-Musa, and Naji Try To Persuade al-Qadhdhafi To Suspend Expulsion of Palestinians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that three Palestinian organizations opposed to the negotiations with Israel have held talks in Libya to secure "continued Libyan support for the Palestinian opposition and to persuade the Libyan leadership to suspend the expulsion of Palestinians from Libyan territory."

The sources said that the delegation included Dr. Fathi al- Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement; Colonel "Abu-Musa" [Sa'id Musa], leader of Fatah—the Uprising; and Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] (led by Ahmad Jibril). The three met with Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi and discussed with him the "situation concerning the Palestinians and the dangers of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO."

The Libyan authorities had invited Palestinian oppositionists to send a delegation representing the 10 factions to hold talks with officials in Tripoli. But a disagreement between two tendencies within these factions prevented the sending of a delegation. A tendency comprising the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] (led by George Habash) and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] (led by Nayif Hawatimah) linked the dispatch of a delegation to a clear Libyan position halting the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, while others believed that it was necessary to discuss the matter in Libya and not to set "preconditions."

The Palestinian sources said that Libyan officials "did not send a collective invitation, but one for each organization individually." The sources pointed to the talks that Fadl Sharuru, a spokesman for the PFLP-GC, held after the 1 September celebrations with Libyan officials, who "stressed that the expulsions reveal the extent of the concessions offered by (President Yasir) 'Arafat in the peace agreements, and urged the Arab states to follow in their footsteps."

While al-Shaqaqi and Abu-Musa are continuing their talks, Talal Naji returned yesterday to Damascus, where he met with Khalid al- Fahum, leader of the Palestine [National] Salvation Front, who told AL-HAYAH after the meeting that the Palestinian delegation "obtained assurances that the Palestinians would not be expelled, and al- Qadhdhafi stressed that he would not send anyone to the border. But it is up to the others to stay at the (Egyptian-Libyan border), because it is useful informationally." He pointed to President Husni Mubarak's request to al-Qadhdhafi to "suspend the expulsions for six months until the Palestinians' entry into Gaza has been organized."

Naji accused "Western parties of being spiteful, trying to exploit the issue against the Jamahiriyah." He told AL-HAYAH that al-Qadhdhafi "has not expelled a single person, and that the Palestinians — engineers and workers — left after the end of their contracts and because of the economic crisis Libya has been experiencing for three and a half years."

He pointed out that the 640 Palestinians present at the border with Egypt "went there at their own will, and most of them are volunteers who went to the border to expose the Oslo agreement." He said that during his meetings with the Libyan officials he obtained "assurances that no pressure would be put on the Palestinians and that conditions in the (deportees) camp on the border would be improved."

Syria Said 'Actively Assisting' Rejectionist Groups

TA2510102795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has begun actively assisting the Palestinian rejectionist organizations opposed to the peace process. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus has learned that Yasir 'Arafat recently told a senior [Israeli] political figure that Hizballah members have been murdering PLO commanders in south Lebanon and that Syria has allocated $18 million to the 10 Damascus-based rejectionist organizations that operate against the peace.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political bureau who opposes the peace process, visited Damascus and Lebanon about two weeks ago to consolidate a broad basis for the struggle against the Oslo agreements.

Quray' Denies Bypass Roads Agreement With Israel

TA2410144995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Oct 95 pp 1, 22

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah — Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and trade in the Palestinian National Authority, has categorically denied that the Palestinian Authority [PA] had reached

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an agreement with the Israeli Government on the construction of settlement bypass roads in the Palestinian territories.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, Abu-'Ala' said that the issue of bypass roads was not discussed at all during the negotiations and that no agreement was reached on it. He stressed that the PA views these roads as part of the settlement drive and activity, which it considers hostile, illegitimate, and a real obstacle to peace. Therefore, we refuse to discuss this issue except within the framework of a final solution, which will determine the direction of the entire settlement movement.

The remarks of this senior Palestinian official came in response to Israeli allegations that the construction of the bypass roads is being carried out with official Palestinian consent.

Abu-'Ala' noted that the confiscation of land and the threat to do so for the construction of these roads, which are intended to serve only the settlements and the settlers and which encroach on the legitimate national rights of the legal landowners, represent a serious concern and a real threat even to the interim agreement signed in Taba and Washington. This is because these acts endanger the interests of Palestinian residents, their land, their properties, and Palestinian agricultural resources. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ala' added: This issue poses a grave danger to the overall peace process, which is facing immense challenges. Perhaps the most serious of these challenges is settlement activity and expansion and the construction of bypass and other roads around West Bank towns and villages, including Jerusalem.

Abu-'Ala' continued: We are very surprised that all this is being carried out in parallel with continuous flagrant violations by Israel of all the agreement's principles in the form of settlement expansion and a race against time to create additional hostile facts on the ground, as is currently happening in Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and other settlements.

Abu-'Ala' once again denied the existence of any agreement with Israel on this issue and said: "It should be clear that there is no and will not be any agreement between the PA and the Israeli Government that permits Israel to build roads or expand settlements." He added that Palestinian demands for the removal of these settlements will continue so that the peace process will succeed.

Israeli Forces Begin Withdrawal From Janin

JN2510072395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli occupation forces will begin to withdraw from Janin today in another step on the path of the departure of the last occupation in the world from our land. A short while ago, approximately 40 occupation police cars began to withdraw from Janin forever. In addition to our people, who are celebrating the occasion, a large number of journalists, photographers, and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies are also witnessing the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Janin. [passage omitted]

Meeting Views Plans To Take Over Evacuated Areas

JN2410205795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held in Jericho this evening under the chairmanship of Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the National Security Forces in the West Bank. The meeting comprised security commanders, as well as Fatah movement officials from all over the West Bank.

Samir Subayhat, secretary of the Fatah movement in the Janin area, said that the meeting dealt with forming command committees from security and Fatah officials to improve performance, to enhance cooperation and field coordination, and to overcome the restrictions, which the Israeli side is creating to hamper the Palestinian experiment as plans are getting close to extend the Palestinian Authority [PA] to the rest of the West Bank.

In a statement to Jericho Voice of Palestine Radio, Subayhat added that the duty of the command committees would be to clarify the missions and roles of each organ in the PA. He also said that the meeting dealt with preparations for the NA to take over territories, which will be left by the occupation army.

All Factions Said Holding Dialogue With PA

MM2410170695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadi: "'Abd-Rabbuh: All Palestinian Factions Conducting Dialogues With Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi — Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, information and culture minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stressed that the PA does not expect many results from the Amman economic summit, scheduled to be held at the end of the month, if

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the policy of making promises of aid without fulfilling them continues.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Abu Dhabi 'Abd-Rabbuh said that it is difficult to talk about development and regional enterprises unless political obstacles are removed and progress achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, unless the talks are limited to Jordanian-Israeli enterprises. He stressed that all Palestinian factions are engaged in dialogues with the PA.

The Palestinian official said that the PA has not signed a peace agreement with Israel, and that all that has been done so far are interim and transitional agreements for the final solution negotiations, after which a peace agreement will be signed.

He pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations differ from those on the other tracks as a result of major problems, including the presence of the settlements, Jerusalem, and the refugees.

'Abd-Rabbuh urged Arabs not to rush normalization with Israel. He said: "We urge the Arab and Islamic states not to rush normalization with Israel. Normalization should take place after a political solution has been achieved." He added: "Our issue will require several years [to resolve], if the agreement is honored, and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks have not moved forward a single step, so where is the peace?"

He stressed the Palestinians' willingness to coordinate with the Arab states, saying: "We were the last to accept the Madrid terms. We called for coordination in order to secure better terms for the negotiations, but we are treated unfairly by some brothers. I do not know why."

He accused Israel of placing obstacles in the way of the implementation of the Taba agreement, namely by imposing a blockade and isolation on the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem — which has had a very serious and adverse impact on the Palestinian economy, causing it to be linked to the Israeli economy and put at the service of the Hebrew state's needs. He added that the Palestinian market is the second largest in the world for Israeli exports after the United States. And that the isolation policy has inflicted on the Palestinian economy losses that exceed the volume of the international aid offered to the PA so far.

He warned that the presence of the settlements is very dangerous and obstructs the implementation of the agreement signed with Israel. He stressed that settlement building and the construction of roads around the settlements to avoid coming face to face with the Palestinians is tantamount to stealing Palestinian land, and hampers Palestinian life.

'Abd-Rabbuh warned that, if the problem of the settlements, the blockade, and the isolation of the Palestinian areas is not solved, the recent agreement will face great difficulties in terms of implementation. There is a timetable for withdrawal until the end of this year from all inhabited Palestinian areas in the West Bank, to be followed by three stages of withdrawal after the Palestinian elections. He pointed out that these stages are a prelude to the final negotiations, which will begin in May 1996. He expects the final phase negotiations to begin properly after the Israeli elections in November 1996. He said that the results of these elections will not affect the course of the negotiations. He expressed his belief that Israel is faced with obligations which it must implement, whatever the political situation there. He said that the U.S. decision to continue the negotiations is the basis and that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "is not the king or symbol of flexibility."

He urged all Palestinian forces to participate in the Palestinian elections, pointing out that "the door is open to all forces, because free parliamentary elections are the safety valve for Palestinian national action in the stage ahead." He stressed that most Palestinian factions, including Hamas, can participate in these elections. He said that some parties in Hamas are thinking of forming a political party to run in the elections. "All Palestinian factions are Palestinian parties in the first place — which helps to democratize Palestinian life and establish a civilian society on Palestinian territory."

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the legislative council to be elected will be part of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. He stressed that there are no plans to change the current structure of the PLO and the PNC. He added that the PNC will not convene now, but maybe after the Palestinian elections.

He stressed the need for Palestinian national unity, saying that there are no obstacles to dialogue with the other factions, and that all factions without exception are engaged in dialogues with the PA. They are all making preparations more positive than the statements they issue. He stressed that there is progress in the dialogue between the PA and Hamas, saying that it has been agreed to initiate an official dialogue between the two sides soon. He pointed out that Hamas has moved closer to this concept through some declared and undeclared meetings and talks, some held inside and others abroad, through the mediation of the Islamic movement inside and outside Israel.

On recent Jordanian measures as regards issuing a five-year Jordanian passport for the Palestinians in Jordan, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "We appreciate any facility provided in any Arab country. This is in the knowledge that we

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are preparing to issue a Palestinian passport for all the Palestinian people covered by the PA."

Hamas Officials on Dialogue With PA

MM2010153095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Al-Zahhar Tells AL-HAYAH: Hamas Will Not Change Into a Political Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has stressed that the movement has not set conditions for the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. In a telephone interview from Gaza with AL-HAYAH, he said that a meeting between the two sides will be held "outside the self-rule area," stressing that the movement has not decided yet to halt its operations against Israel, and that it will not change into a party.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, one of the leaders of Hamas, told AL-HAYAH that a meeting will be held soon with the Authority in "Khartoum, Cairo, or Yemen" to initiate a dialogue which will pave the way for reconciliation.

Al-Zahhar denied that the PA has set preconditions for the dialogue, while Shaykh Ahmad Bahr linked the halting of operations and participation of Hamas in the elections to the outcome of the dialogue. It must be mentioned that the PA has recently released al-Zahhar and Bahr after nearly four months in jail.

Asked about reports of a tendency within Hamas which supports halting the operations against the Israelis to facilitate reconciliation between the movement and the PA, Al-Zahhar replied: "These are only personal views and speculation, not a decision. The movement's view is clear, and no decision has been taken yet to stop operations."

He stressed that "no dialogue has taken place yet" between the movement and the PA, and that both sides "have not committed themselves to anything." He added that "Hamas has not set any preconditions for the dialogue, and everything will be put on the table" when both sides' representatives meet. He denied that there are any contacts between them in Gaza at this stage, saying that the recent meetings in Khartoum "were an attempt to explore the views" of the Hamas leadership abroad. He pointed out that "the Hamas delegation chose to be neutral" in the mediation between Hamas and the PA and met with PA figures in the Sudanese capital.

Al-Zahhar said that he expects the meeting with the PA to take place "outside the self-rule area," but refused to specify the venue or date. In response to a question, he replied: "We are still willing to start the dialogue with the PA." On whether the movement was asked to agree to halt operations against Israeli targets as a precondition to start the dialogue, he said: "We have not heard of any conditions and do not see that as a precondition." He reiterated that "no final decision has been taken to stop operations" and refused to specify his personal position, in view of the fact that he is the movement's spokesman, adding that a neutral Arab state will sponsor the meeting to initiate a dialogue between Hamas and the PA.

On the consultations held by the movement's leaders to form a party, al-Zahhar said: "This issue is among the points being discussed. We do not have democratic institutions (in the self-rule area) and all organs are autocratic. Everything is in the hands of the head of the PA," Yasir 'Arafat. He ruled out the possibility that Hamas would change into a party but did not rule out that "a party affiliated to it may be formed."

He stressed that between 50 and 60 movement's members "are still in the PA's jails," and denied that he met with 'Arafat before or after his release by the Palestinian police.

In this context Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, who was jailed in Gaza with al-Zahhar and Shaykh Salamah al-Safdi and released last Monday after nearly four months in prison, said that the Hamas leadership will meet with representatives of the "brothers in the PA soon."

He revealed to AL-HAYAH that the meeting will take place "in Khartoum, Cairo, or Yemen," stressing that the issue of whether to stop or continue operations against the Israelis will be decided with the PA. He expressed his hope that there will be "positive results," saying that "the Khartoum meetings were preparatory meetings, and those who traveled to the Sudanese capital went to mediate between the PA and Hamas, but that they did not represent the movement. They took the initiative with the approval of both the PA and Hamas."

On the figures who will participate in the expected dialogue, he said: "I do not know." On whether he supports halting the operations, he said: "The issue needs to be studied thoroughly, and we await the dialogue and hope for the best." He stressed that Hamas did not make any conditions for the success of the dialogue, pointing out that the movement "wants to participate in building society and the institutions. He said that he has little hope that the PA will release all Hamas prisoners to confirm its good intentions. This is not a condition for initiating the dialogue but a necessity, because we do not want to be subjected to pressure or blackmail." In response to another question, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr linked the issue of the movement

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changing into a political party or forming a party to the outcome of the dialogue, which will also include "the participation of Hamas in the Palestinian elections." He expressed his optimism, pointing out that the aim is "to achieve a general national accord among the Palestinian people." He denied the presence of wings within Hamas, stressing that "divergence of views ultimately serves the general interest." In his view, a potential reconciliation between the movement and the PA should not arouse the discontent of Islamic Jihad, which recently pledged to continue operations against Israelis and organized demonstrations in a show of strength, which was interpreted as a response to the proposals being put forward inside Hamas on the possibility of suspending operations, at the time of getting ready for reconciliation with the PA.

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Algeria

Zeroual Comments on Meetings in New York, Colombia

LD2410143495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, returned home this morning from New York after participating in the proceedings of the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement held in Cartagena in Colombia and the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in New York. [passage omitted]

The head of state assessed for journalists at the VIP hall in the airport his participation in the summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Cartagena and the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

[Begin Zeroual recording] I am very pleased to return to the homeland after an absence for a few days, during which I participated in the summit of the Nonaligned Movement and in the ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. Algeria had the duty to participate in those two important events as Algeria, and this is known by every citizen, has a special status in these meetings. Algeria is expected to adopt positive stances for consolidating international relations and entrenching peace and cooperation between all the world states during these meetings. [passage omitted]

I took the opportunity of being present in Cartagena and New York to hold several contacts with heads of states and heads of delegations. These contacts were aimed particularly at consolidating bilateral relations and exchanging views and analyses of the future of international relations.

With regard to bilateral relations, I stress to the Algerian people that I am very eager to provide all organizational and political conditions to these meetings to guarantee their success. These meetings should be based, first and foremost, on mutual respect and should be fully transparent and clear.

Personally, I believe that the bilateral relations of Algeria with all its partners would be very useful if they were characterized by the clarity and transparency we talked about and also by respect of the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in others' affairs. [end recording]

Spokesman on Canceled Chirac-Zeroual Meeting

LD2410230295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the cancellation by President Zeroual of the planned meeting with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac, which was announced in New York by the spokesman for the presidency, Mihoub Mihoubi spoke to Nacer Cherid and reiterated Algeria's refusal of any foreign interference:

[Begin Mihoubi recording] For the last two months, we have been bludgeoned with advance publicity for this meeting. What is of concern, though, is that we are being told that the head of state of France is going to tell the Algerian head of state what he must or must not do in his own country. It is not yet clear to some people that Algeria is a sovereign state and it does not take lectures from anyone; it is quite capable of managing its own national affairs in accordance with the overriding interests of its people. If there is someone who can provide a perspective on the proper way to manage national affairs, it is the Algerian people itself, and no one else.

For our part, we decided that the meeting had become pointless, so we asked for it to be postponed. [end recording]

Mihoub Mihoubi went on to say what he means when he says the meeting has been postponed.

[Begin Mihoubi recording] When we say postponement, you must not forget that we are dealing here with two states. As you know, relations between states are perennial. It is possible to have a disagreement today — relations can get muddled because of a misunderstanding or a gaffe — but that does not change the fact that relations between states continue. Shared interests are there to remind one of that fact. The two national communities are there, on both sides, to remind one. [end recording]

'Dead' AIS Leader Merzak Signs Communique

LD2410200595 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] says it has killed 150 soldiers in the east of the country this month. The communique is signed by Madani Merzak, the leader of the AIS, whose death the Algerian press had recently announced during an army operation.

Denies Claims of His Death

MM2410150295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian 'Salvation Army': 150 Killed in Jijel Fighting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Salvation Army has denied reports in

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Algeria that "its national amir," Shaykh Madani Mezrak, died two weeks ago during the fighting with security forces in the Jijel mountains. This denial came in an undated statement signed by Mezrak himself, of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy.

Mezrak admitted in the statement that heavy fighting took place in the Settaf area, situated among the provinces of Setif, Jijel, and Masilah [as transliterated]. He pointed out that huge forces reinforced by rocket launchers, tanks, guns, and helicopters tried to storm the area 1 October after a fierce bombardment. He added that "violent clashes" continued for about a week and ended with the security forces' failure to enter the area. He said 150 military personnel were killed, in addition to four of his elements. [passage omitted]

Candidates Present Views in Election Program

LD2410133895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 24 October broadcasts a 20-minute election campaign program featuring presidential candidates Dr. Said Sadi, Mahfoud Nahnah, and Noureddine Boukrouh. First to speak is Dr. Sadi who discusses the reasons that made him stand as a candidate in the presidential election. He says the main reason is the security situation which led to the people losing confidence in their institutions and officials. Dr. Sadi adds that the reasons in the political field stemmed from the fact that Algeria had a weak government that was unable to establish a balance, and achieve harmony and effectiveness among the various establishments and authorities. In the economic field the oil revenues have always been used to shore up the ever bankrupt economic establishments, leading ultimately the disintegration of the national economy; added to which is the national debt and the high cost of living. In the social field there is extensive unemployment, housing problems, and other social dangers, "the most dangerous of which is drugs which were unknown to our society before today." Dr. Sadi adds that in the cultural field there are the problems of the emigration of educated people and the freezing of creative cultural activity.

The second candidate is Mahfoud Nahnah who urges the people to vote for him as this election is the first plural presidential election in Algeria, in the Arab homeland, and in the Islamic world. The people are called on to extensively participate in the election. He says that after independence the dream of the Algerian people evaporated as no change was established. The revolution and the war veterans wanted to build a modern Algerian state but the authorities that succeeded each other since independence did not do that. We noticed that these authorities "abandoned Islam and made it absent in public life although the constitution of the country stipulates that Islam is the religion of the state," Nahnah states. He adds that Algerians are today required to correct the concept of Islam.

The third and last candidate is Noureddine Boukrouh explains who his views on the economy through a person named Saidani Ismail. Ismail says that Boukrouh aims at activating the national economy. Boukrouh is an advocate of the right to ownership and free enterprise. Boukrouh wants to allow every Algerian to invest. Boukrouh wants the economy to be adminstered on the basis of the world economic laws. Ismail adds that Boukrouh promises to reduce taxes by 50 percent as this reduction will revive the economy, by creating more employment.

Candidates' Representatives Speak on Radio

LD2310173095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 23 October carries the "Presidential Elections '95" political program. Today's broadcast includes representatives of three candidates, who each are given 5 minutes to speak. They are the representatives of Nourredine Boukrouh, Mahfoud Nahnah, and Said Sadi.

The representative of Nourredine Boukrouh poses a question asked by some: Why should one vote when the results are known? "This is negative thinking," he says. "We should know that the citizen has the right and the freedom to chose from among the four existing candidates," he adds.

Why to chose Boukrouh? It is because he has a program that covers the political, social, human development, and foreign policy fields, all of which will be explained in future episodes. Today we discuss the topic of youth, which is very important in young Algeria, as 75% of its people are youth.

What has Boukrouh to offer to the youth? He will provide the legal and material means to enable youth to invest and have the initiative in all fields. Without youth, Algeria cannot stand up.

He speaks further of sports and providing facilities. Then he says: "Although the National Service is a necessary principle, we, however, propose to shorten it to one year, naturally in the proper security circumstances, and not only that but to use this year partly for military training and partly for developing youth work skills and opportunities." We have a number of other suggestions concerning housing, work, culture, and the role of youth in them, which we will explain in future episodes, he says.

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The representative of Mahfoud Nahnah leader of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], stresses that "without knowing the disease, we cannot prescribe the cure" and that to overcome the current crisis, Algeria needs a wise program. He also stresses that the crisis experienced by Algeria is not new, but began in 1962 when a certain faction imposed itself and its will with its alien orientation on the people. He says his movement seeks to redress the imbalance in the country in all domains. "To restore legitimacy to Algeria, the people should chose a trend that encompasses all trends and a regime that represents all sections of the people and all directions; north,south, east, and west."

He urges the Algerian people to elect the Movement's candidate, as he has a program that will get Algeria out of its crisis.

The representative of Said Sadi expresses thanks to supporters and describes Mr. Sadi as a veteran struggler who prefers to stand by the people and their causes rather than enjoy official senior positions. He says Mr. Said wishes to bring about a total break with the past. He realizes that only an alternative will provide the opportunity for a solution to the crisis and believes in the credibility of the elections and the necessity to vote for "the candidate of democracy." He promises to tackle the various problems of Algerian society in future episodes.

HAMAS Leader Begins Election Campaign

LD2310153695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0530 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The official election campaign opened yesterday [22 October] with four candidates entering the contest: Noureddine Boukrouh, Mahfoud Nahnah, Liamine Zeroual, and Said Sadi. They have from now until 13 November to convince the maximum number of voters. HAMAS leader Mahfoud Nahnah toured the capital, and went, in particular, to the Ketchaoua Mosque. He spoke to Walid Salman:

[Begin Nahnah recording] As far as Algerians are concerned, Ketchaoua Mosque is a symbol that unites all Algerians. Also, it is situated in the Casbah, which has been the capital of all Algerians since the days when it was called Mazghanna. It is a symbol situated on the rim of the Mediterranean, a sea we would like to transfer into a lake of peace, stability, dialogue, and democracy. For these reasons, therefore, I have chosen Ketchaoua Mosque as a starting point to make public the fact that we have begun the election campaign within the framework of the party's endeavors to reach the presidency through peaceful and democratic means.

It is our opinion, however, that 16 November will be a day in which the true face of Algeria will be revealed; it will be a watershed which will consecrate the true meaning of change and a break with past practices. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Security Services Kill 5 'Terrorists'

LD2410183495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Security Services communique says that five armed terrorists were killed in Algiers yesterday during various manhunt operations carried out by the Security Services. The communique also said that an explosive charge weighing 600 kgs, which was inside an ambulance parked in front of the clinic in Bourouba [Algiers], was disarmed.

In Tarf, the security forces have recently broken up a network for the support of terrorists composed of many members.

Security Services Dismantle 'Terrorist' Networks

LD2410202795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services announced today that their forces dismantled a network collaborating with terrorists which comprises several elements who are active in Bou Hadjar and Tardam.

They also dismantled two other networks active in El Tarf. The first comprises 24 elements and the second 21. The security forces also killed 22 terrorists in the outskirts of Algiers and recovered arms and ammunition.

'Network' Dismantled in El Tarf

LD2510082295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The security services' statement pointed out that a terrorist support network made up of 72 people has been dismantled in El Tarf Province.

Another security services' statement said that three terrorists who formed a group that was active in Ben Aknoun area and responsible for assassinating an official at the Interior Ministry and placing a bomb in front of Ben Aknoun municipality building last August were eliminated.

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Egypt

Musa on U.S. Decision To Transfer Embassy

NC2510082995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the U.S. Senate decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was unreasonable since it affects the general climate of the peace process. He remarked that the issue of Jerusalem is still open.

Musa added: The important thing is that U.S. President Bill Clinton has the right to voice his opinion on this issue. He pointed out that this decision is not final and that it does not necessarily mean the embassy will be moved. He added that the date for implementing the decision is open and that there is no specific date.

The U.S. Congress last night approved with a large majority a bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on 31 May 1999.

Foreign Minister Views Economic Summit, Issues

NC2410221095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that at the upcoming Amman economic summit, Egypt will call for holding the next regional meeting in Cairo. In statements in New York today, Musa said Egypt will also urge that steps of regional cooperation be in tune with the progress made in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and in the talks on the other tracks of the peace process.

The foreign minister criticized the so-called new world order and its double-standard policy toward the international problems that have emerged since the Gulf war. In an exclusive statement carried by the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, Musa said the continuation of this policy will erode the credibility of the United Nations and the global legitimacy on which the world based its confrontation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The foreign minister called for expanding the membership of the UN Security Council to include new forces with regional and international weight. He stressed that Egypt is likely to become a Security Council member for the next two years. He hoped Egypt will one day become a permanent Security Council member.

The foreign minister announced that Egyptian officials are still holding intensive contacts with Israel on the issue of the Egyptian POW's. He stressed that Egypt will ask the International Committee of the Red Cross to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention if Israel fails to make satisfactory moves in this regard.

Prosecution Releases 8 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC2510070995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general at the State Security Prosecution office, today decided to release eight defendants affiliated with the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group. He also decided to extend the prison terms of 18 defendants to 30 days, pending the outcome of their interrogations.

The prosecution accused the defendants of propagating the ideology of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood during the international scout camp in Alexandria, of joining a group that has been established contrary to the provisions of the law and constitution, and of joining an illegal party organization.

Brotherhood: 149 Members To Run in Elections

NC2410122495 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 19-25 Oct 95 , p 2

[News Report by 'Amr Rabi': "Brothers Still in the Running"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outlawed Muslim Brotherhood announced this week that 149 of its members will contest the parliamentary elections in 107, or 48 percent, of the nation's 222 constituencies. This makes the Brotherhood the second largest opposition group, after the Wafd Party, to participate in the elections. Only the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) is contesting the elections in all constituencies. The Wafd is expected to field candidates in over 50 percent, and possibly up to 80 percent, of constituencies.

Two Brotherhood candidates are running against cabinet ministers: Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the Brotherhood's spokesman, against Amal 'Uthman, minister of social affairs, in the constituency of Dokki, and Jamal Hasan against Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, in the al-Fayyum constituency of Ibshawai. The Brotherhood's Munir Ghalib, who is running in the Cairo constituency of al-Ma'had al-Fanni, may find himself poised against Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, if the latter is nominated by the NDP.

The Brotherhood boycotted the 1990 elections, but their candidates include 14 members of the People's Assembly elected in 1987. They are:

1—Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna
2—Mukhtar Muh
3—Majdi 'Akif

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4—Basyuni Ibrahim
5—'Abd-al-Raziq 'Uthman
6—'Abd-al-Rahim Rasd
7—Mahfuz Hilmi
8—Abu-al-Futuh 'Afifi
9—Bashir 'Uthman
10—'Ali al-Dib
11—Ma'mun al-Hudaybi
12—Mustafa al-Wardani
13—Yasim 'Abd-al-'Alim
14—'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Ashri.

Other members of the 1987 Assembly—who have been put on military trial—have not been nominated, in an apparent bid to avoid further friction with the government. They are Hasan al-Jamal, 'Isam al-'Uryan, Mahmud 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hakim, Ibrahim al-Zafarani and Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib. However, experts believe that there is still a possibility that they can nominate themselves, although this depends on the tug-of-war between the Brotherhood and the government.

In line with the Brotherhood's conservative ideology, its list of candidates does not include a single woman.

There are indications that the "tripartite alliance" between the Brotherhood and the Labour and Liberal parties, which was forged in 1987, has been quietly disbanded. This development, analysts believe, reflects the Brotherhood's wish to run independently of other parties in view of the abolition of the slate system. That system had forced the Brotherhood to run on the slate of the Wafd Party in 1984 and on the Labour-Liberal slate in 1987. But this is no longer necessary following the switch to an individual candidacy system.

The disbanding of the alliance may also indicate Labour's wish to ward off the accusation that it has lost its independent identity since the coalition with the Brotherhood was formed. And yet Brotherhood candidates are not opposing Labour in the key constituencies of Shribin, where Ibrahim Shukri is running, Nasr City, where 'Adil Husayn is a candidate, and Imbabah, where 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat is running.

The announcement of the names of the Brotherhood's candidates coincided with a government decision to put 30 brotherhood members on trial before a military court on charges of belonging to an illegal group and acting to incite public opinion. The decision brought the number of Brotherhood members facing military trial to seventy nine.

NPUG Names 40 Candidates for People's Assembly

NC2510073695 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Sulayman Shafiq]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference from the National Progressive Unionist Group [NPUG] headquarters on 14 October, NPUG leader Khalid Muhyi-al-Din announced the names of the first group of NPUG candidates for the upcoming People's Assembly elections. The list includes 40 candidates in 18 governorates. Muhyi-al-Din stressed that the party's election program offers an alternative to the two policies rejected by the masses. The first is the government policy, which made the masses poor, he said. He noted that unemployment was over 20 percent; Egypt has about 3.5 million jobless people. The number of families below the poverty line rose to 64 percent in the countryside and 49 percent in cities, he said. In 1994 alone, he added, poverty levels increased 16 percent.

The second rejected policy, Muhyi-al-Din explained, is the policy of terrorism. He said terrorist groups are pushing Egypt to a real life-threatening disaster. In 1994 alone, he pointed out, 273 citizens were killed by terrorism. He added: The wave of bloody terrorism is continuing this year; it has even escalated and gone as far as an attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Muhyi-al-Din said the number of NPUG candidates is limited because of financial and electoral limitations. But what matters are the results, he said.

Libyan Motives for Expulsions Questioned

NC2410104095 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 8-10

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "What Sin Have Egypt and the Palestinians Committed?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why has Libya retracted its decision to suspend the expulsion of Palestinians to the Egyptian border?

It is a regrettable thing that an official Libyan spokesman should contradict the statement made by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after his meeting with the colonel. Musa said: The problem of the Palestinian deportees will be solved soon and Libya has agreed to stop deporting Palestinians to the Egyptian border.

The Libyan spokesman said the Egyptian foreign minister's statement is totally untrue. This is astonishing.

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'Amr Musa did not put words into the colonel's mouth. Furthermore the Libyan ambassador in Cairo had earlier announced that he expects Musa's visit to Libya and his meeting with the colonel to have many positive results. The ambassador added that these results would be translated into actual procedures designed to improve the living conditions of Egyptians in Libya, thus emphasizing the two countries' special relationship. He also said that concerning the Palestinian workers their issue would be settled by the end of the year.

Stranger still is the Libyan news agency's remark: Attributing Libyan decisions to the leader of the revolution, as some officials have done, is not right and betrays an appalling ignorance of the administrative structure in the Great Jamahiriyah. The brother colonel is not a president and has no official function at all apart from his role as revolutionary agitator! The Libyan people rule themselves by themselves via their popular congresses and committees. They make all the decisions.

With all due respect to the Great Jamahiriyah, this argument is not good anymore to issue decisions that hide behind illusory veils or to rescind earlier decisions. The argument can no longer serve to run a country, where responsibilities should be more clearly defined. It no longer convinces anyone because everyone knows that the colonel is the doer and that his agitator's role continues until the decisions he wishes are issued.

The farce reaches new heights in the following momentous and dramatic pronouncement by another Libyan official: What really happened with regard to the Palestinians was that the colonel, proceeding from his wish to safeguard the Arab nation's causes, addressed a call to the Palestinian masses residing in Libya, advising them not to lose the opportunity created by the proclamation of a Palestinian state and hasten to assert their identity and right to return. These masses responded to the call. . . this way the decision became a Palestinian decision which no one has the right to rescind!

We would all have hoped that the facts really agreed with this bright picture painted by the Libyan official's statement. The reality, however, is that the number of Palestinian expellees on the Egyptian border is steadily rising.

Perhaps this falls under the heading of Libyan national sovereignty. Still, mass expulsion without clear and specific reasons and without making prior preparations or giving the deportees a period of grace to protect their human dignity is an action that harms Libya, casts doubts on its motives, erodes its credibility among the Arab public, and turns its slogans about unity and pan-Arabism into ludicrous shams.

One cannot find one reasonable cause justifying this addition to the Palestinian people's hardships just as they are passing through difficult circumstances in which, relying only on themselves, they try to restore some of their rights. War and peace options alike have become very few, the founts of pan-Arab struggle have dried up, and Israeli settlement in the occupied territories has expanded so much that it threatens to swallow up most of the Palestinian land. The restoration of one inch of occupied territory is a gain that should not be thrown away. The return of a Palestinian town is a gain that deserves applause and support. The departure of the Israelis from all the West Bank's and Gaza Strip's towns is doubtlessly a Palestinian victory despite its flaws. If Libya wishes to reassert the Palestinian people's right to return to their country, as the Libyan official claims, why doesn't it wait until a Palestinian state is established?

There must be other reasons for Libya's unexpected stance.

We know that Libyans are frustrated due to the continued air embargo. But what crime have the Palestinians or the imported labor committed?

We can understand why Libyans are fed up with the continued embargo because of the Lockerbie issue. We can also understand why Libya is angry at the double-standard policy that still governs international relations and casts shadows on the credibility and justice of the world order.

We can understand Libya's growing feeling of injustice and unfairness, particularly after it had agreed to put the suspected Libyans on trial according to the Scottish laws and before Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice or any place that hoists the UN flag to guarantee neutrality and cleanliness as well as respect for the Libyan laws that prohibit the handing over of Libyan nationals to a foreign state.

We can understand the reasons behind that indignation because it has offered all it could and found no fair response or acceptance from the West. The west insists on the literal implementation of the UN resolutions, demanding Libya to hand over the suspects for trial not in Lockerbie, Scottland, where the plane was downed, but in America, since the plane was American and so were most its victims.

But this Libyan indignation should not take the form of uncalculated counteractions that further aggravate the Libyan position, deprive Libya of sincere friends that try their best to help find a solution for the crisis, or isolate Libya after it had gained growing Arab and international

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sympathy that curbed others' ability to impose further sanctions.

Libya should not vent its anger in uncalculated counteractions that call back to mind the old Libyan role as an odd troublemaker that creates problems and interferes in other people's affairs, an unpredictable party totally indifferent to the rules of law and legitimacy. This is what others want; they want to maintain Libya's old image as an old renegade state and one of the factors for instability in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, deporting Palestinians to the Egyptian borders has undermined Libya's image in the Arab nation and the world at large and called to mind some of its old habits without accruing any gains for Libya itself.

Libya has gained much out of moderate policies and it should protect these gains. Its old image has changed, its general relations with African and Arab countries have changed, and it gained growing sympathy in Arab society and international understanding.

Libya regained the Africans' confidence when it voluntarily agreed to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice in its border dispute with Chad and when it stopped interfering in the affairs of African states.

It gained growing world confidence when it affirmed its renunciation of acts of violence and terrorism, closed training camps, and opened its doors to whoever wanted to verify this.

It gained full Arab consensus when it handled the Lockerbie issue objectively and agreed to hand over the suspects to a third party to guarantee a clean and unbiased trial.

Before all that, it gained the support of Egypt, who undertook the burden of defending the Libyan stance at every international forum. If the Egyptian efforts have not resulted in the air embargo yet, they have averted a military assault on Libya and restricted chances of the imposition of stricter, escalated sanctions.

Through its moderate policies, Libya has realized a great deal of internal stability, because these new policies necessitated changing the image of the government with the presence of more realistic and moderate personalities. The frenzied faces that used to chant empty slogans about the scorched land, inflamed seas, confrontation with the West until the last man, and transferring the struggle to the Third World arena, disappeared. The symbols of this frenzied current disappeared in favor of a new current that understands, away from bombastic slogans, the limits of Libya's capacity in a new world that lacks balance and is ruled by one pole that monitors the Libyan stance because of its historic precedence.

But it seems that these gains are endangered now because of the uncalculated Libyan reaction to the continuing air embargo. These became manifest in the mass expulsion of foreign labor without any previous warning and forcing the Palestinians to leave Libya with the objective of placing obstacles before the peace march and embarrassing 'Arafat. And finally, there is the drizzle that fell on Egyptian-Libyan relations as a result of the irresponsible statements that were released by Libyan officials, who know very well the amount of aid that Egypt gave the Libyan Government and people.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi wanted, through what he has recently done, to prove that Libya is capable of confusing the stance in the Middle East and exporting problems, and that it could revert to its old policies because it has not accomplished anything by being moderate. I believe that this approach is wrong because Libya's return to its old and frenzied policies will not help it to have the sanctions lifted. On the contrary, such a policy will be an excuse to step up sanctions on the Libyan people.

Libya was the greatest loser from all these measures, which did not affect one single western interest. In fact, they harmed the interests of certain Arab countries who supported Libya.

How can the Israelis and the West be harmed into reviewing the decision of the air embargo by the presence of a Palestinian camp on the Egyptian-Libyan border? In no way at all. On the contrary, the camp is evidence that the Arabs are doing unto the Palestinians what the Israelis themselves do.

How can the West and the Israelis be harmed from tense relations between Egypt and Libya? In no way whatsoever. Quite the contrary, everyone will feel satisfied with this tension in the hope that it will rid them of Egypt's continuous pressures to review the sanctions issue.

Although we understand some of the reasons for the Libyan dissatisfaction, this should not be a justification for harming the Egyptian people, who closely followed the efforts by President Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy in supporting the Libyan stance and decreasing the burden of isolation on the fraternal people.

Egypt categorically rejected any western military action with the objective of threatening Libya's security. It also objected to the idea of a land embargo and declared that it will not accept it or adhere to its conditions. It resisted attempts to escalate sanctions and did all it could to work on lifting the air embargo. It also opened new doors for dialogue between Libya and western European

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countries and shouldered the burden of defending the issue in all international fora. Egypt also contributed in every way it could to alleviate the pressures of the air embargo. It was the lung through which the Libyan people breathed.

I believe the colonel knows well that President Mubarak alone was the one who strived extensively to meet the colonel on Libyan land in order to confirm Egypt's support for the Libyan position and to ease some of the effects of the isolation the people are suffering from there.

Egypt did all of this because of a responsible national feeling on the importance of Libya's stability as Libya is a neighbor and brother whose stability is linked to Egypt's security. If Egypt is concerned about Libya's security and stability, it is Libya's duty to maintain a friendship with Egypt and its people, regardless of the reasons for Libya's suffering and to avoid shuffling the cards, because Egypt is doing its utmost.

Police Kill 'Fugitive Terrorist' in Suhaj

NC2410184695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—A runaway terrorist has been killed by security forces in his hideout in Markaz (?al-Balyana), in the Suhaj Governorate of Upper Egypt.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said today that the fugitive terrorist, Musa al-Shahhat Musa, alias Musa Abu-al-Widn, had escaped after an armed robbery of the Abu Shushah Village bank, Markaz Farshut, in Qina. His companion, terrorist Khalid 'Abdallah 'Abdallah, was killed in the robbery.

The source added that the State Security detectives devised a plan to track down the fugitive terrorist and monitor his movements. Information revealed that the terrorist used a sugar cane plantation for his activities and that he planned to meet with another terrorist yesterday evening in the al-Sahil Qibli sugar plantation in Markaz al-Balyana.

The source said that after implementing legal procedures, the security forces laid several ambushes in the area the terrorist frequented. The security forces were surprised by the terrorist firing several shots at them as soon as he noticed them. The forces had to handle the terrorist immediately and he was killed as a result. The source added that an automatic rifle and two full magazines were seized from him.

The source said the terrorist took part in planning and carrying out many terrorist incidents and was wanted in many cases, primarily in the attack on a guard unit at the Mar Jirjis church in Qaft and in the murder of assistant police officer 'Abdallah 'Abbadi of the Qaft police station. He was wanted for shooting at a police car escorting a UNICEF committee in Qus. He was also wanted in connection with robberies against al-Malikah jewelry shop in Farshut, armed robbery of the Abu Shushah Village bank, and murdering Policeman Ramadan Ahmad al-'Arabi.

The prosecution office has been notified to investigate.

Libya

JANA Editor on U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

LD2410233195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. Senate today endorsed a draft bill stipulating the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the city of Jerusalem in occupied Palestine.

The Arab affairs editor at the Libyan news agency JANA commented. He said:

We were not surprised or astonished by this hostile U.S. resolution which targets one of the sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims. This resolution has proved the validity of our analysis and true perception of history, which is: the strategic coalition between America and the Israeli enemy knows no limit and aims, at the utmost, colonializing the Arab homeland, subjecting the Arab nation, controlling its destiny, and looting its resources.

The editor added that: this resolution represents violation of and blatant aggression against the sanctity of the holy Jerusalem and constitutes a disdain to all the resolutions issued by Islamic summits, particularly the third Islamic summit, Palestine session, held in Mecca in 1981, which stated that Jerusalem to be liberated by holy jihad, as well as other resolutions issued by the seventh Islamic summit held in 1994 regarding the city of Jerusalem. The resolution also constitutes gravest insult against the documents of the Organization of Islamic Conference which stipulate taking practical steps for holy jihad to liberate holy Jerusalem. The U.S. move makes all past Islamic summits mere ink on paper. [passage omitted]

The editor pointed out that: while this resolution contradicts the will of international community and resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council, with it America also violates international resolutions, UN Charter and disregards the will of the international community. Thus America is on the forefront of the countries who do not abide by international resolutions

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and conventions; moreover, it encourages the Israelis not to adhere to these resolutions. [passage omitted]

UN Address Criticizes U.S. Domination of Council

LD2410122695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0920 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Nations, 23 Oct., JANA — The Great Jamahiriyah has emphasized that terrorism is an American phenomenon.

In a statement delivered today at the 50th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA], the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said that terrorism was originally an American phenomenon and that America has used it against the majority of the countries that have rejected the American imperialist hegemony. [passage omitted]

He emphasized that the failure of the United Nations in the social, economic, and political spheres was not due to a fault in the UN Charter, but was due to the absence of political will in a number of superpowers that wanted either to keep the organization from doing its job by cutting its supply of money — the arrears of one of these superpowers has exceeded $1 billion — or to make the United Nations submit to their pressures and implement their schemes, including the drawing up of its agenda.

The secretary expressed regrets that this minority had succeeded in achieving its goal. The UNGA, which should be the supreme authority, has been marginalized and has become a kind of a wailing wall at which small and poor countries cry and complain without anybody listening to or caring about them. Most of the authority has now been concentrated in the UN Security Council [UNSC], which has become a kind of closed shop whose activities are dominated by selfish interests, whose actions are governed by double standards, and whose behavior violates the law. The UNSC has become an apparatus governed by a convention that allows a minority of members impose their policies, pass their schemes, and use the council as a tool to impose sanctions on small countries in an attempt to vanquish and subjugate them. Moreover, the UNSC, which was supposed to preserve international peace and security, became a tool of aggression when it authorized a superpower member to lead military operations under the UN flag, which was established to stop the eruption of wars and to end the suffering they cause.

The brother secretary stressed that one cannot go on accepting this situation which the United Nations finds itself in; equally, one cannot coexist with such a situation. Therefore, it is inevitable that the actions by the organization should be evaluated and an attempt be made to enhance its role in activating international cooperation in order to increase development and treat the malfunction in the world economy, including trade restrictions and unjust measures, and to guarantee that the United Nations would be an instrument to settle disputes among states by peaceful means, and not by unjust sanctions. [passage omitted]

Libya has always called for combating, and is still striving to concentrate efforts on ending, the phenomenon of international terrorism in all its forms, as Libya has called for the convening of a special UNGA session to study the phenomenon of terrorism, including state terrorism. Therefore, it is unfair to accuse Libya of terrorism. Terrorism by origin is an American phenomenon, and the United States has used it against most peoples and states, including Libya. Libya has been subjected to several American conspiracies. When these failed, America imposed on Libya unjust measures and embarked on provocations through its fleets in the Mediterranean. That reached a peak when hundreds of American aircraft raided Libyan towns under the cover of darkness, destroying houses, schools, hospitals, and killed scores of people — innocent civilians, women and children. Lastly, it used the UNSC to impose unjust sanctions on Libya using the pretext of a legal controversy, which the 1971 Montreal Convention had dealt with, regarding the safety of civil aviation. These sanctions have led to the death and injury of thousands of people as a result of using land travel, in addition to economic damages, which so far has exceeded $10 billion.

He pointed out that because of these reasons and others, it is necessary to reform the United Nations so that it can function according to the wishes of the member states, and not be a sword threatening these states, especially the small ones. This requires the realization of the independence of the organization in drawing up its agenda and adopting its resolutions. In this context it is inevitable to bolster the role of the UNGA in the field of keeping world peace and international security, especially when the position of the Security Council becomes linked to world peace. [passage omitted] The brother secretary called for increasing the membership of the Security Council, ensuring the just geographical distribution in its formation, and for improving the methods of its functioning in order to ensure that it does not resort to double standards in dealing with international issues. [passage omitted]

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UN Security Council Called U.S. 'Tool'

LD2410214795 Tripoli JANA in English 1518 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Al-Tumur 24 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation confirmed the failure of the United Nations in several respects.

In a statement distributed to delegations taking part in the 50th session of the UN General Assembly he said that despite the success achieved by the organisation in solving some political, economic and social issues, its role has failed in several respects. It has failed in implementing resolutions which it had issued against aggressive acts such as what happened in 1986 when the United States of America launched military aggression by air and sea against the Great Jamahiriyah targetting the leader of its revolution. This resulted in the death of scores of citizens while they were asleep and the destruction of civilian installations. This caused material and moral losses to the innocent citizens. The United Nations did not score any progress regarding the moral and physical losses of innocent civilians. The United Nations did not score any success in settling major issues related to the liquidation of colonisation such as the Palestinian cause which had been submitted as an agenda item to the General Assembly since its establishment. The organisation has failed to find a solution despite the numerous resolutions which reaffirm the right of the Palestinian people to self determination. This case is now being dealt with outside the United Nations on basis that are biased in favour of the Zionist entity and in total disregard for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in returning home and establishing their independent state and revoking of the General Assembly Resolution No 33/79 which equates Zionism with racism. That was a serious precedent which might make other resolutions of the United Nations in respect of the Palestinian cause not binding morally or politically.

The United Nations also failed to reach a satisfactory settlement to various issues which have remained on its agenda for many years, namely the issue of Kashmir and Cyprus. The United Nations has also slipped into the imposition of the de facto state as is the case in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It did not take any effective measures to protect Sarajevo and the other towns which the Security Council decided are safe havens. It was also incapable of taking urgent procedures to stop the fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. It also failed to stop conflicts and civil war in Georgia and the caucasus and in supporting the efforts of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, Somalia, Rwanda and Burundi.

One of the features of the so-called new world order which emerged following the end of the Cold War is hegemony of one state, that is the United States of America over international affairs and the practice of exposed policies by interfering in the internal affairs of other states in the domain of the United Nations. This constituted a lurking danger on all nations and developing countries, especially the small ones as this power was likely to impose its policy to make the regional powers follow its orbit and under its control to pass its designs while using the United Nations and its major tool in international peace and security keeping (the Security Council) as a means of imposing its will on other states.

A crucial evidence for that is offered in the form of what was taking place in Somalia, Haiti and Iraq as the United States headed an international coalition which had not been under the United Nations but was under the American leadership. What is known as the Lockerbie crisis and its developments offer crucial evidence about the style followed by the super power and its tool the Security Council which had been manipulated to serve its political interests by the worst use of its prerogatives enshrined in the charter.

As for the mere suspicion of Libyan nationals of involvement in the American airliner crash over Lockerbie Libya faced the so-called international legitimacy in the form of unfair sanctions which have resulted not only in major material losses including all economic sectors but also caused high human losses that amounted to thousands of deaths and thousands of terminally maimed casualties as a result of road accidents. What is worse is that the so-called Lockerbie which has a legal nature was settled under chapter seven of the charter which should not have been applied here at a time when the Israeli enemy was exempt from this chapter despite their actions which threaten the essence of international peace and security.

This confirms that the Security Council no longer handles the cases in accordance to its charter but according to an unwritten law which allows the super power to use it in a way to achieve its strategic goals and purposes. Some super powers have indulged in dragging the United Nations institutions to apply the policy of double standards at a time when they menace penalising states for mere suspicions of having nuclear capabilities but they ignore the Israeli enemy and all that it possesses in terms of nuclear heads. It also refuses to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The conference of state members of this treaty has proved the selective

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policy as the Israeli enemy had been excluded from joining the treaty whereas it was imposed on a number of states in the Middle East which were forced to extend it indefinitely.

The United Nations is still stumbling in the achievement of progress in solving the problems of the soaring foreign debts in developing states.

The international economic environment is still not in favour of these countries, particularly the African countries because of the economic decline and the application of protective policies and the decline of formal development assistance and the non-implementation of agreed obligations in international conferences by the United Nations particularly in what concerns the financing and transfer of technology.

Despite the fact that the issue of reform of the United Nations enjoyed wide scale attention by various states a quasi unanimity has emerged in support of increasing Security Council membership to match international developments as the United Nations is working in a dynamic world with quick changes.

The need is there for the international organisation to maintain the capability of survival and re-adapts itself to the appropriate ways for its purposes but the authority in interpreting the charter and its amendments is controlled by a few member states which made the reconstruction of the United Nations a political issue and not a legal issue as there is still some contrast between the enlargement of the extension of Security Council membership to match the increase in the membership of the General Assembly at a time when most of the nations confirm the need to achieve a fair geographical balance in membership and improve the systems of work including a realistic revision to review the power of veto: Most of the non- permanent members insist on certain positions such as granting permanent membership for some specified states and it emerged that these states are not ready to abandon any prerogative including the power of veto in the Security Council.

There has been an increased demand on peace-keeping operations recently and their numbers multiplied and their mandate became varied in a way that they are constantly moving away from their traditional concept and have been linked to monitoring the electoral operations and the activities of human relief, monitoring human rights and helping the build up of states and surveyance of borders which led to the soaring financial costs and the creation of financial problems for the organisation.

The United Nations is presently suffering from a financial crisis due to the refusal or the delay of some countries, including a super state, from settling its contributions to the general budget or proposals presented by the secretary general in respect of settling this issue had not been accepted by the majority of states.

The review of the United Nations progress over the last five decades reflects numerous failures particularly when the organisation is compared to the aspirations and expectations of the nations of the world. Even during the post Cold War era world expectations rose so that the international economy benefits from the lack of confrontation and the United Nations becomes quicker in settling regional disputes. The record of international events has foiled all these expectations as the obstructive factors for economic progress had not been solved in a serious manner and that led to the spread of poverty, starvation social disintegration and the continued vertical development for nuclear weapons.

Civil wars also broke out and regional conflicts have dominated almost all areas in a way which makes it seem as if the globe has exploded. In fact the failure of the United Nations in these areas is not attributed to the shortcomings of the charter as any problem could have been settled by the provisions of the charter. But it is attributed to the absence of political will on the part of a number of super powers which wanted to keep the United States under its control to implement its strategies. Unfortunately these minority states have succeeded to a large extent what they have sought to achieve. The situation appears that the General Assembly which represents all members has become marginalised and has become like the wailing wall where smaller poorer nations complain but no one listens and no one heeds their concerns. Most of the powers in the Security Council have turned into what appears to be a closed club controlled by the selfish interests where double standards prevail and step over the rule of law and became an organ that follows an unwritten law which allows the minority of its permanent members to impose its policies and pass their designs and use it as a tool to penalise the smaller states in an attempt to suppress and subjugate them.

What is worse is that the Security Council which had been charged with the mission of international peace and security has turned into a tool of aggression when it allowed a super power the leadership of military operations under the banner of the United Nations which had been basically established to prevent the outbreak of wars and put an end to conflicts.

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Al-Qadhdhafi Affirms Continuation of Expulsions

NC2410165695 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Surt, Libya, Oct 24 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said Tuesday [24 October] he would continue his expulsion of African workers from his country but added that "one day" they would return.

"Libya will not do without workers from neighboring nations — Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad, Tunisia and Algeria. I think they will return one day but in a different way," al-Qadhdhafi told a press conference. "Because of (Libya's policy of) open borders, they now work without permits or identification or medical checkups, so diseases have spread," he said in his administrative capital Sitre, west of Tripoli.

"AIDS came to Libya carried by foreign workers, and there are 20 cases of cholera in Abjadia because of foreign workers," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi also told reporters he would make a declaration on Wednesday about the expulsion of Palestinians from his country "on the condition you publish honestly what I say today."

"The term expulsion which the colonialist media have used is a huge historical mistake. This is a return, not an expulsion, whether it is by their own will (the Palestinians) or against their will to push them to return," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi began throwing out the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya in September, saying it was time for them to return to their homeland.

Sanctions, 'Extremists' Said Behind Expulsions

NC2410122395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic, in its issue on 20 October 1995, publishes on pages 18-21 a 4,000-word pictorial report on the plight of Palestinian deportees on the Libyan-Egyptian border. The report, written by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif, is entitled: "The Palestinians on the Border: A Tragedy Searching for an End?"

In the introductory paragraph the writer says: "A nation used by others. Some claim that they represent it and that they are its leaders in order to obtain certain benefits. Others exploit them and then say: We are the ones who defended them from the start. Therefore we must be paid our due. Finally there are those who say they are testing the Oslo agreement through them. But it is not something to be tested in this way. The negotiations about the refugees were crystal clear: The 1948 refugees were not mentioned at all in the agreement. The status of those who were displaced in 1967 was postponed until negotiations over the permanent status. Everyone uses them. No one defends their primary right in life: to have a homeland which to return to when they are cast out by their brothers."

The report details the experiences of several individuals living at the border camp and the hardships they have faced. There is also an account of a riot that the Palestinians staged one day, starting a fire in the camp and setting a passing Egyptian semi-trailer carrying plastics aflame.

Two things in the report stand out. The first is about remarks made by unidentified Egyptian officials at the border town of Sidi Barrani, commenting on al-Qadhdhafi's motives for the expulsions. They say: "He is sending a message to the world, telling it that despite the embargo, he is still able to act and create disturbances in the region."

These officials add that he wants to keep the issue of the embargo alive and cause anxiety among neighboring countries, many of whose citizens work in Libya. They say he wants these countries to agitate for the removal of sanctions against his country. They note that 700,000 Egyptians, 70,000 Tunisians, 50,000 Moroccans, and 300,000 Sudanese work in Libya.

The writer cites border talk about disturbances inside Libya caused by "extremist religious movements" who have clashed with Libyan security forces in Banghazi for the second time in five months. The reports say that the "Libyan security services accuse some Egyptian, Sudanese, and Palestinian elements, who belong to these extremist movements, of fanning the fires of the extremist stream in Libya and for this reason mass deportations were carried out from specific areas in Libya. The deportations applied to people of several nationalities."

The second significant thing is a boxed 350-word item within the general report, citing a statement made to AL-MUSAWWAR by Muhammad Subayh, the Palestinian representative at the Arab League. He says that a six-member committee, representing the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo and the Palestinian Red Cross, visited the border camp and revealed in its report that "the camp is controlled by several Libyan security men who have infiltrated the Palestinian camp and some Palestinians who collaborate with them."

The committee reports that the Libyan security personnel and their collaborators "force other Palestinians to make statements that do not reflect their true positions and if they refuse they are deprived of food and water."

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Subayh adds that the committee ascertained that the Palestinians did not leave Libya voluntarily but were dismissed from their jobs and deported.

Allegations on Deporting Foreign National Denied

LD2410165095 Tripoli JANA in English 1456 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur (October) 24, JANA — Commenting on a statement made by the official spokesman of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in respect of the deportation of foreign nationals illegally in Libya, a spokesman for the General Commission for Human Resources made the following statement:

We wish to reveal that the competent authorities in the Great Jamahiriyah did not deport any foreign national who is legally resident and employed in Libya. But actions were taken to deport the foreign nationals who infiltrated the country and have not obtained the required work and residence permits.

The source confirmed in his statement that the deportation of the nationals to those countries does not constitute a violation of Libyan law or international agreements or conventions which are valid and observed and that such deportation does not affect the rights of those aliens even though they have violated national laws which protect and organise Libyan sovereignty.

The source concluded his statement by saying that the speech of the spokesman of the International Labour Organisation in this respect reflects an unduly hasty judgement on an issue without following the legal and formal procedures outlined in the Constitution of the ILO. The competent authorities dealing with residency and employment matters did not receive any formal correspondence from the ILO through diplomatic channels.

Mauritania

Police Arrest Political, Army Leaders for Spying

AB2410220595 Paris AFP in English 2118 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nouakchott, 24 Oct (AFP) — Police arrested about 100 people, including political and Army leaders, in a swoop on Mauritanian pro-Ba'ath circles following the discovery of a spy network, reliable sources said Tuesday [24 October]. According to the sources, those arrested included at least 20 people close to President Ould Taya's Democratic and Socialist Republican Party (PRDS).

About 10 Army officers were also arrested, following investigations by Mauritanian secret services, the sources added. But they said most of the people arrested were civilians, former ministers, senior civil servants, journalists, lawyers and teachers. In addition, two pro-Ba'ath daily newspapers were banned.

Iraq on Tuesday strongly denied that an Iraqi spy ring had been set up in Mauritania and denounced the expulsion of its ambassador from the country.

The Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott, Anwar Molad Bayan, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry there late Monday and told he had 72 hours to leave, Mauritanian Government officials said.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said Baghdad had hoped in vain that Mauritania would go back on its decision. He did not say whether Iraq would take any tit-for-tat measures. But an Iraqi diplomat told AFP that Baghdad may decide to expel the Mauritanian ambassador in the Iraqi capital.

Mauritania's pro-Ba'ath movement has always been influential in the country, and the military regime of President Taya backed Saddam Husayn in the 1991 Gulf War. Observers said Tuesday's wave of arrests marked a turning point in the foreign policy of Mauritania, which was one of the few Arab countries to support Saddam's regime.

They added that, for several months, Mauritanian foreign policy has been moving closer to the West. At the request of Spain and France, the country has been invited to participate in the Mediterranean conference to take place at the end of November in Barcelona. The arrests also coincide with Mauritania's preparations to receive new ambassadors from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — countries that were previously represented by charges d'affaires.

Morocco

King Holds Sideline Meetings in New York

Meets Rabin, Saudi Officials

LD2010235895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan, may God grant him victory, who was flanked by HRH Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received at his place of residence in New York the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Afterward, the beloved king received, in the presence of the crown prince, also at his place of residence in New York, HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation, and inspector general, who was

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accompanied by HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Sa'ud, the foreign minister, and HRH Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington.

Meets With 'Arafat

LD2110234695 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in New York for private talks. Then his majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, co-chaired an extended working meeting with the Palestinian president. It was attended from the Moroccan side by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and from the Palestinian side by Jamal al- Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Nasir al-Qudwah, delegate of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

Meets With Chirac, Gonzalez

LD2310165095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, made a number of contacts with world leaders taking part in the emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly being held in New York to mark the UN 50th anniversary.

His majesty's place of abode in New York was the scene of several activities. His majesty received French President Jacques Chirac. After the meeting which was held in-camera, his majesty went in company of the New York Public Library to attend the dinner banquet hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Clinton to honor dignitaries taking part in the UN General Assembly's emergency session to mark the UN's 50th anniversary.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, in presence of the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed also received at his residence in New York Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. This meeting was also attended by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

The Spanish prime minister made a statement to the press after the meeting in which he affirmed that his meeting with his majesty was an important and a positive one and reiterated that problems between Morocco and Spain, on one hand, and between Morocco and the EU will be resolved.

Sudan

Clinton's Meeting With Ethiopia's Zenawi Assailed

EA2410215095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Kabir al-Kutubi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Many observers were greatly astonished by U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting with the exhausted Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, in New York yesterday. As is well known, the U.S. Administration at all levels has always shown contempt for any such meeting involving their president and African leaders. Those to whom the U.S. president granted an audience, such as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, are considered lucky.

The role Egypt plays in the U.S. strategy in the Middle East and in the African Continent is well-known. The United States uses Egypt as a cat's paw to crystallize its strategies. It is in this context that Clinton's meeting with Zenawi should be understood, namely as a U.S. contract to repay the Ethiopians for being agents, and thus give the commissioned prime minister an opportunity to meet the president of a state that calls itself great. What is more astonishing is the fact that the subject of the meeting was Sudan, and the commendations were for Ethiopia's efforts to curb the defiance of so-called terrorism in Sudan.

There is no doubt that Sudanese society is well aware of the magnitude of the plot being hatched against it, and the net that the United States is weaving to encircle Sudan, and the evil role Ethiopia has played in this reprehensible [word indistinct].

U.S. policy has now been exposed by what went on at the meeting between the U.S. president and the Ethiopian prime minister who, until recently, was pleased with Sudan and its people, and recounted the help that Sudan and its people have tirelessly extended to Ethiopia throughout all stages of its development.

No doubt the Ethiopian prime minister is well aware of the wicked quagmire he has hurled himself into. Perhaps he should recall the fate of all those leaders who sell the destiny and choice of their peoples to the West or the East like his predecessor, Mengistu. There is no doubt, too, that Meles Zenawi knows well the historical relations that link the two peoples of Sudan and Ethiopia which are unlikely to be affected by the winds of [word indistinct] through which Zenawi hopes to harm these relations. This is because the entire people of Ethiopia know Sudan, and the essence of the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

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Zenawi may meet the devil if he so wishes but Sudan will not be affected by these things. Let Clinton investigate human rights in his country, and let Zenawi investigate freedom of ethnicity, human rights, and support for terrorism in his country; but they do not have the sincerity needed to do that. For this reason their [words indistinct] meets while Sudan scores one victory after another.

Tunisia

Libya's al-Qa'ud Arrives for Joint Committee Meeting

Highlights Importance of Session

LD2310230795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived this evening in Tunis, where he heads his country's delegation in the 9th session of the Tunisian-Libyan higher follow-up committee, which will be held 23-25 October. [passage omitted]

At the airport's VIP lounge, Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud gave a statement in which he highlighted the importance of the joint higher follow-up committee's 9th session, which will examine numerous files prepared by the preparatory committee in connection with the cooperation march between the two countries and two fraternal peoples, and the sufficient means for strengthening and consolidating it.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud is accompanied by an important delegation, which includes, in particular, the secretaries of the general people's committees for justice and public security, communications and transport, energy, health and social security, planning, economy and trade, and marine resources.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD2410152995 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the government house in the Casbah this morning, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui held a meeting with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary general of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. They were joined later by the two countries' ambassadors. Following the audience, 'Abd-al-Majid al- Qa'ud stated that the meeting dealt with arrangements made by the preparatory committee for the meeting of the Tunisian-Libyan high level follow-up committee, and also with a number of points that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had sketched for relations between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He added that during this meeting agreement was reached on a number of main issues concerning the policy that aims at interlacing interests and integration and the coordination of major actions between the two fraternal countries.

Co-Chairs Follow-Up Committee Talks

LD2510100195 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ninth session of the higher Tunisian-Libyan follow-up committee opened today under the joint chairmanship of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and 'Abd al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Hamed Karoui pointed out that the meeting is an opportunity to assess cooperation between the two fraternal countries, and its development. He said that Tunisia, which has never ceased to devote its solidarity with the brotherly Libyan people, is still endeavoring to have the embargo imposed on them, lifted. He recalled President Zine El Abidine's initiatives and contacts aimed at finding an honorable solution to this issue, so as to end the Libyan people's suffering, preserve brotherly Libya's dignity and sovereignty, comply with international legitimacy, and save the region from any dangers. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Stresses Cooperation with Libya

LD2310181595 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met this morning at Carthage Palace with the prime minister, Mr. Hamed Karoui, who submitted to the head of state a report about the ministerial work meetings which were held during the past week and particularly concentrated on relations with the European Union and preparations for the 1995-96 olive oil season.

His excellency the president's interest was also directed to the Tunisian-Libyan cooperation on the occasion of the holding of the 9th session of the [Tunisian-Libyan] higher follow-up committee, starting in Tunis today.

Within this framework, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali renewed emphasis on the need to push cooperation between Tunisia and the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah for strengthening relations between them, and responding to the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

The head of state recommended concentration on joint projects, tightening the follow-up on their implementation, and increasing the development of trade exchange

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and investment for strengthening the interlocking of interests and consolidating the march of the Arab Maghreb Union and joint Arab action.

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GCC Finance Committee Disagrees on Customs Tariff

LD2410193695 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] Finance and Economic Cooperation Committee, which includes the finance and economic ministers, concluded its 40th meeting at the headquarters of the council's general secretariat in Riyadh this afternoon without reaching a final agreement on the issue of a unified customs tariff on exports from abroad.

Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim, the Bahraini finance and economic minister, who presided over this session, said that there was hope for ending this issue during next year. He pointed out that there were ideas on the customs tariff's maximum levels, and that these will be put forward to the GCC foreign affairs ministers' ministerial council, which will be held in Muscat on 4 November.

Committee Proceedings Detailed

LD2410234895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2208 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyad, 24 Oct — The proceedings of the 40th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] economic and finance cooperation committee were concluded this evening at the headquarters of the GCC general secretariat. These meetings were held at the level of their excellencies the GCC finance and national economy ministers and were chaired by his excellency the minister of finance and national economy in Bahrain, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim.

His excellency, the Bahraini minister of finance and national economy and chairman of the current session said in a statement after the conclusion of the proceedings that a number of the issues on the agenda had been discussed including the issue of the unification of customs tariffs between the council countries, the renewal of work with the retail rules and the review of the memorandum of the governors of the central banks and financial institutions in connection with the promotion of banking. [passage omitted].

As regards, the electrical power link between the GCC countries, His Excellency Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim indicated that this issue was discussed during the meetings, it was agreed in principle and will be submitted to the summit meeting.... [agency ellipsis]. He pointed out that the meeting agreed that the Gulf investment institution continues to examine the issue and prepare alternatives for it and that the project will be carried out by the private sector.

Regarding the Gulf countries' participation in the Amman economic summit, his excellency the Bahraini finance minister said that participation will be on an individual basis but there will be a coordination between the GCC countries in order to use this meeting to establish the basic policy of the GCC countries regarding the entrenching of the peace process in the region particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts.

Concerning the economic institutions whose creation will be proposed during the Amman economic summit, his excellency indicated that the private sector would play a big role in them alongside the donor countries.

Kuwait

Amir Thanks UN for Help Against Iraqi Aggression

LD2410222995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Address by Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the 50th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 24 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. President, Your Excellency the Secretary General, brothers and friends: Greetings and congratulations to you and to all mankind. [passage omitted]

On this anniversary, I extend my thanks to the United Nations on behalf of the Kuwaiti people for the support it has given to my country against aggression, and I hope that this support will continue until all the Security Council resolutions are implemented, particularly in connection with the Kuwaiti and other prisoners whose detention in Iraqi prisons represents a human tragedy. [passage omitted]

I have come to thank and congratulate you on behalf of Kuwait and I am attached to the principles stipulated by the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Discusses Iraq with UAE President

LD2410181595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, acting prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has returned to the country after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he delivered a message from the deputy amir and heir apparent, Shyakh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah to his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, on the fraternal

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relations between the two brotherly countries, and the recent developments in the region.

Before leaving Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir issued a statement to the emirate's news agency in which he said that he explained to his highness the UAE president the State of Kuwait's position on his highness's call for achieving Arab reconciliation, and alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people. He stressed that Iraq is the one that rejected Security Council Resolution 986, which allowed it to buy what it needed of clothing and medicine after selling quantities of oil. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that Kuwait is only asking the countries which supported Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait to commit themselves to asking Iraq to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions, which are the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Oman

Minister Welcomes UAE Call for Helping Iraqis

JN2410165495 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin- 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, welcomed the call made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], to achieve comprehensive Arab reconciliation, lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, and end their suffering.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, his excellency said the Sultanate of Oman welcomes and supports this call. We hope Iraq will respond to the UAE call as much as possible by implementing the UN resolutions and addressing the Kuwaiti prisoners' issue, so it will be acceptable to return Iraq to the Arab and Gulf folds.

He pointed out that Shaykh Zayid's call for Arab solidarity is not the first of its kind but is one of his repetitive calls on the Arab states to achieve solidarity. This call stems from Shaykh Zayid's pan-Arab positions, his genuine Arab humanitarian feelings, and his interest in the Arab nation's unity.

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi said that the Iraqi people are suffering very much, that this suffering has very wide dimensions, and that its repercussions will extend to the coming generations.

He added: We all want to help Iraq, but Iraq should respond to the initiative of His Highness Shaykh Zayid, to remove the continued burden of the blockade. Contrary to the expectations of Iraqi officials, failure to respond to this initiative may perpetuate the blockade for a very long time.

His excellency believes that no one in the Arab Homeland does not seek an end to the Iraqi people's suffering. However, the Iraqi Government should move positively toward achieving this noble objective. He said: In this phase, we are all duty-bound to crystallize Shaykh Zayid's call and focus on the fact that the Iraqi Government should take advantage of this call and help both us and the Iraqi people lift the blockade imposed on them.

Discussing the 16th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, which will be held in Oman in December, his excellency said: Intensive consultations are being held between their majesties and highnesses, the GCC leaders, on many topics the summit will discuss. He added that the GCC Ministerial Council will hold a meeting on 4 November to prepare an agenda.

He said the summit should pinpoint the most strategic current issues, including the situation in Iraq, as well as the future of the region with or without Iraq. This issue is important and it greatly affects the interests of the GCC states.

He added that at the summit the GCC leaders will also discuss developments of the Middle East peace process and cooperation among GCC states in all fields, particularly the economic field, as well as the recommendations of the specialized ministerial committees to enhance cooperation among GCC states.

His excellency pointed out that the GCC ministers of foreign affairs, economy, and finance will hold a joint meeting in Muscat on 4 November. The ministers of finance, economy, and defense will hold meetings in the near future as part of the continued activity to prepare for the summit.

Moreover, his excellency stressed Oman's support for the Middle East peace process. He said: Through diplomatic and other means, we support the peace process to achieve the sought objective — namely, realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

His excellency also stressed the need for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories to achieve the just peace we seek.

Regarding the strong fraternal relations between Oman and the UAE, his excellency asserted that they are model and strong relations which serve as an example for relations among states, thanks to the wise directives of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. Both leaders are interested in founding these

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relations on the basis of fraternity and amity between both sisterly countries and peoples, he added.

Qatar

French Defense Minister Arrives in Doha on Visit

JN2310214395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 23 Oct (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Charles Millon arrived in Doha this evening on an official two-day visit to Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cited Millon as saying that he is carrying a message to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar, from French President Jacques Chirac. He added that his talks with Qatari officials will deal with bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields.

On the outcome of his visits to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Millon said: France has links with Arab states. These links are still living everywhere, and they receive much hospitality and cordiality. Millon added that there are some ideas and concepts on promoting cooperation in defense fields between his country and these states.

Conveys Chirac Message to Amir

JN2410120195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 24 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received a message from French President Jacques Chirac that includes an invitation to his highness to visit France.

The message was delivered by French Defense Minister Charles Millon at a meeting [words indistinct] this morning. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said talks dealt with bilateral cooperation.

The Qatari Minister of state for defense affairs and deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces also met with the French defense minister and discussed bilateral relations in the defense fields and other issues of bilateral concern.

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Envoy Praises Saudi Support for Arab States

LD2410203395 Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Oct 24, SPA — Yemeni Ambassador to the kingdom Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab has highlighted the kingdom's distinguished role in extending support to the Arab and Muslim countries.

In a statement published by Jeddah-based AL-BILAD newspaper today Dr. al-Kabab said 'the kingdom, which has been playing an effective political and economic role, has earned respect at the regional and international levels'.

Dr. al-Kabab highlighted the existing deep-rooted relations between the kingdom and Yemen and said tangible steps were taken to further enhance bilateral relations.

On the work of the joint Saudi-Yemeni committees, formed following the signing of the understanding memorandum between the kingdom and Yemen during last holy month of Ramadan, Dr. al-Kabab said the committees are going ahead in performing their mission and they they have been holding meetings alternately under the supervision of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Arrangements are underway for development of commercial exchange between the two countries, he said and added 'doors are open for investment in Yemen'.

United Arab Emirates

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN2410103095 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, arrived in the country at noon today on a short visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was received at Abu Dhabi Airport by His Highnes Shaykh Hamadan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and ministry officials.

Conveys Message to President Zayid

JN2410125295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received a verbal message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, today dealing with bilateral relations. The message comes within the framework of continuous consultations between the leaders of the countries of the region in the interest of their peoples, as well as those of other Arab and Islamic peoples.

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The message was conveyed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahamd, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister at a meeting with Shaykh Zayid here today.

Sultan: Iran Occupation of Islands 'Direct Threat'

JN2410071895 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 24 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has emphasized that the Iranian occupation of the three islands causes a direct threat to the security of the region in general and to the UAE in particular.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion of the UN 50th anniversary's celebrations, Shaykh Sultan said the Arab people and countries of the region expect the United Nations to play a greater role in tackling the problems and the phenomena resulted from the several conflicts and wars, from which the region suffered during the past decades, and to find solutions to these problems in order to realize their hopes and aspirations of peace, justice, development, and stability.

He called on all countries to renew commitment to the objectives of the UN Charter and international law in order to emphasize the political will of enhancing the role of the international organization and its specialized agencies and increasing its effectiveness to realize the objectives for which it was established and to establish a world free of wars, repression, injustice, and poverty.

Shaykh Sultan pointed out his country's principled position against extremism, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and drug trafficking, and called for liberalization of international trade in service of international cooperation.

Zayid Receives French Defense Minister

JN2310134495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received a message from French President Jacques Chirac dealing with relations of cooperation and friendship and means of enhancing them.

The message was delivered by French Defense Minister Charles Millon at a meeting with Shaykh Zayid here today. Discussions dealt with the situation in the Gulf and issues of joint interest.

Yemen

Vice President Meets Arab, U.S. Officials at UN

JN2410152795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, the vice president, met with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual at the UN headquarters in New York last night. During the meeting, Hadi conveyed to the Algerian president President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's greetings and wishes of progress and prosperity for the Algerian people. The two officials discussed bilateral relations. The Algerian president asked the vice president to convey his greetings to President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his wishes of progress and prosperity to the Yemeni people.

The vice president also met with Iraqi Vice President brother Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf. During the meeting, the two men discussed relations between the two sisterly countries and the efforts to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people within the framework of the UN resolutions. The two sides stressed the need for Arab reconciliation for the Arab nation's progress, security, and stability. Brother Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Hadi asked Ma'ruf to convey the brother president's greetings to his brother the Iraqi president.

The brother vice president received in his place of residence in New York Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of promoting them. They also dealt with regional and international developments and the situation in the Horn of Africa. The vice president praised the good Yemeni-U.S. relations. He stressed the need for U.S. participation in supporting Yemen's financial and administrative program. He also stressed our country's commitment to democratization, pluralism, and the achievement of security and stability. For his part, Robert Pelletreau expressed the U.S. desire and readiness to promote and develop relations between the two friendly countries. He also voiced support for the Yemeni administrative and financial reform program. He indicated that his country will play an important role in encouraging U.S. businessmen to invest in Yemen.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; brother Muhammad Taha Mustafa, minister plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of U.S. State Department officials.

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Libyan Embassy Receives Phone Threats

MM2410141195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Embassy in Yemen Receives Threats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — Informed Yemeni sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau (embassy) in Sanaa has asked the Yemeni authorities to tighten security and security measures around the embassy building and the diplomatic residence as some Libyan diplomats have received threats over the telephone from elements believed to be affiliated to Libyan opposition groups.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT tried to contact the charge d'affaires at the Libyan Embassy, but the operator said he was in Aden. It was not possible to ascertain from sources in the same bureau whether this information was true.

Unofficial sources in Sanaa have pointed to the possible existence of Libyan elements belonging to the opposition, including elements belonging to Islamic groups that include Arab and non-Arab people. "They are in Yemen on the pretext of studying and learning religious subjects through Yemeni scholars."

However, Yemeni government sources have ruled out that the Libyan opposition has any presence in Yemen. They stressed that relations between the two countries are excellent, and there is marked cooperation between them, as Libya is currently financing the final stages of the unity housing project offered by colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi as a gift to Yemen following the establishment of the union. And that there is a joint company between the two countries financing a number of huge projects.

Saudi Papers Interview Salih on Relations

LD2510130795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, has expressed his deep satisfaction with the rapid positive developments in Saudi-Yemeni relations.

His excellency, in an interview he gave to AL-BILAD and AL-RIYAD, published today, and to the magazine IQRA, which will be published tomorrow, affirms that the fraternal and kinship relations binding the two peoples, and historical and geographical factors require that their relationships should be at the highest level of cordiality, cooperation, solidarity, and cooperation.

His excellency says that the work of the joint committees, formed in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries, is progressing well, and has produced positive and satisfactory results, which contribute toward preparing better atmospheres for reaching results that are satisfactory to both sides on a just and final solution to the border issue, and to strengthening and developing relations between the two fraternal countries.

His excellency points out that a new aspect of Saudi-Yemeni relations is the speedy development of moves toward the strengthening of the distinguished fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries, and toward increasing spheres of bilateral cooperation to the benefit of citizens.

Concerning investment in Yemen, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih says that Saudi investments and Saudi investors are at the forefront of these investments, which we welcome and encourage, proceeding from the special nature of the relations which bind our two fraternal countries and peoples.

He adds: During my recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I met a number of the kingdom's investors and talked at length with them on the spheres of investment available to them in Yemen, and I received positive responses from them.

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'Udayy Reportedly Arrested for Defying Orders

JN2410163895 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the exacerbation of the conflict within the ruling Saddamist family in Baghdad and the tyrant's move of limiting the powers of his criminal son, 'Udayy, and seizing his assets to curb his reckless behavior, there have been reports in Baghdad that Saddam recently ordered that 'Udayy be arrested for refusing to obey his father's orders.

Meanwhile, an opposition Iraqi source stressed that the criminal 'Udayy, his mother, and other members of the ruling family have been arrested by the regime authorities while trying to flee to Amman in a motorcade comprising over 60 cars on the Amman-Baghdad highway.

It is noteworthy that 'Udayy has not appeared so far on television with those who extended congratulations to his father in the recent referendum farce despite the appearance of his brother Qusayy and some members of the ruling family in the theatrical ceremony of extending congratulations to the tyrant.

Foreign Ministry Denies Mauritanian 'Fabrications'

JN2410172895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA) — Iraq categorically denied and strongly condemned Mauritanian fabrications about the existence of so-called Iraqi spy networks in Mauritania.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY this evening, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Apparently, these fabrications were propagated by Mauritanian officials who were paid by those who spend huge sums of money to sabotage relations among Arab countries, undermine sincere efforts to restore Arab solidarity, and tarnish Iraq's reputation.

The spokesman added: Otherwise, how can we explain the fabrications that Iraq or its embassy in Mauritania have spy networks and on what are they going to spy in Mauritania?

The spokesman said that the Maurtianian ambassador in Baghdad had informed the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon that the Mauritanian authorities decided to expel Anwar Mawlud Dhiban, Iraqi ambassador to Mauritania, within 72 hours without giving a suitable explanation for that decision. The spokesman added: We requested the Mauritanian Government to act in harmony with the nature of the relations between the two countries and call off this decision. However, the Mauritanian authorities insisted on their stand.

The spokesman said: The news agencies have disseminated statements by Mauritanian officials claiming that there are what is called Iraqi espionage networks in Mauritania. For our part, we do not only deny these fabrications, but also strongly denounce them.

The spokesman stressed that the reality of the honest Iraqi intentions toward relations with Mauritania will remain unchanged, and that these intentions are known to every Mauritanian and those concerned in the Mauritanian Government. The spokesman said those seeking to harm Iraq bear alone the responsibility of their actions before God, the Mauritanian people, and the Arab nation.

Vice President Meets World Leaders in New York

JN2410121995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)—Heads of Arab and friendly delegations have relayed greetings from their leaders to President Saddam Husayn. Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf relayed greetings from President Saddam Husayn to the leaders of these states during official meetings he held here yesterday with heads of delegations attending the UN anniversary celebrations.

The vice president met with Shaykh Sa'd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister. They discussed the brotherly ties between the two countries, general conditions in the Arab world, and Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf also held official talks with Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi, whose country is the president of the UN Security Council for this month. The vice president explained to the Nigerian foreign minister Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council. They also discussed bilateral ties. The Nigerian minister asked the vice president to convey greetings from President Sani Abacha to President Saddam Husayn.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf also met with Yemeni Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Hadi in an official meeting that was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations. They discussed the brotherly ties between Iraq and Yemen and the initiative announced by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, calling for Arab reconciliation and lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The vice president also met with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf told

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Shaykh 'Abdallah that Iraq highly values Qatar's position and its support for Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan's initiative. Shaykh 'Abdallah conveyed greetings from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf met earlier with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. They discussed ties between Iraq and Turkey. President Demirel underlined the need to work on raising the level of official meetings between the two countries and to bolster serious cooperation to serve the interests of the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

Commission Head: Country Has No Prohibited Weapons

JN2310140095 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA — Oil Minister and acting head of Iraqi Military Industry Commission Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid said recently that Iraq since the end of 1991, has not possessed prohibited weapons or components.

Speaking at a press conference attended by foreign reporters in Baghdad, on Thursday [19 October], Lt. Gen. Rashid stressed that such a situation has not changed since 1991 until now. "In brief Iraq has fulfilled its obligations towards UN Security Council's Resolution 687 and 715 and the Chairman of the Special Commission (UNSCOM) Rolf Ekeus is aware of this fact.

"Iraq not only cooperated with UNSCOM but participated activity in establishing a very effective and intensive monitoring system and its operations. So 715 resolution is also implemented.

The last four years of work with the Special Commission there has been more than 125 inspection teams in Iraq in different areas of mass destruction weapons. There has not been a single case of Iraqi violation of its obligations under Resolution 687. "From the Iraqi point of view, we have fulfilled all what is required to the Security Council by us under these two resolutions. What is pending, all issues you hear whether the reports of the Security Council or news media is regarding the story of the past".

However, the Special Commission under pressure from some influential circles in the Security Council, the forefront of which is the American Administration have extended its mandate not only to ask information on the past (Iraqi weapons) programme related to the definition "what is to destroy or render harmless" but to detailed information that need a long time to settle with the Special Commission.

Iraq has cooperated very well with them to answer these questions. What has been really all related to (the Iraqi) past programmes.

We have been since early August very open (with the Special Commission) very frank and very free to cooperate with the Special Commission and with all what has been said, we think we will settle all pending issues related to the past (weapons) programme so that the coming few weeks we could finalise this episode of 687.

Asked why Iraq did not accept UN Resolution 918 he said UN resolution undermines Iraqi sovereignty and fulfillment of humanitarian duties of the world community towards the Iraqi people.

The Iraqis have suffered for five years, they have the right to live freely and to get all necessary food and medicine using their own resources not as a help from any international organisation the minister inquired: is it not fair that after Iraq has fulfilled the objectives of UN Resolution 687 to have full lifting of the embargo and to experience normal life as any normal nation.

The minister called for lifting all sanctions allowing Iraq to export oil freely in order to buy enough food and medicine for its population.

Concerning continuing cooperation (with UNSCOM) in a very constructive, open and credible way till we settle issue we do not need now to set a deadline (ending cooperation with UNSCOM).

On the defection of traitor Husayn Kamil Hasan, the minister accused him of stealing a lot of money, about 8,7 million dollars. He added that Iraq has filed a case against him at the Interpol. The minister said Husayn Kamil Hasan should be indicted and should be imprisoned.

Responding to a question about what is his comments on statement made by US representative to the Security Council Madeleine Albright that Iraq is not telling the truth to the UN, he said Madeleine Albright has also her credibility even inside the Security Council and members of the Council know this fact.

Saddam Receives Sudanese Leader's Message

JN2410195195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, received a written message from his brother, Staff Lieutenant General

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'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the sisterly Republic of Sudan.

The message was delivered to the leader president by Staff Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, Sudanese minister of defense. The Sudanese minister congratulated the leader president on behalf of the Sudanese president, government, and people on the high confidence in his excellency the great Iraqi people displayed in the public referendum.

The leader president, may God grant him victory, asked the Sudanese minister to convey to President al-Bashir and the Sudanese government and people the thanks of the Iraqi leadership and people for the good brotherly feelings toward Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Defense Minister Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad.

Defense Minister Meets Sudanese Ambassador

JN2110202595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, the defense minister, received Hasan 'Abidin, Sudan's ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting, the Sudanese ambassador underlined the Sudanese Government's and people's support for the government and people of sisterly Iraq. He also praised the success of the general referendum for the post of president and said it constitutes a decisive response to the enemies' falsehoods.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Yemeni Ambassador

JN2210145595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, received in Baghdad yesterday brother Riyad (al-'Asbari), our country's ambassador to Iraq. During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the two fraternal countries. Moreover, brother Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iraqi Government values the Yemeni Republic's stand, which calls for lifting the embargo and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

For his part, the brother ambassador renewed our country's support for the call by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to lift the embargo on Iraq and to achieve Arab solidarity.

Referendum Said To Undermine Sanctions Efforts

JN2410112495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Oct (INA)— AL-QADISIYAH says Iraq's popular referendum will pave the way for developing democratization and for subsequent democratic steps. In today's editorial written by AL-QADISIYAH Chief Editor Hani Wuhayyib, the paper says: The comprehensive lesson, which is derived from the implications and results of the referendum, serves as a catalyst to expand the democratization process and embark on practical, broader steps which honestly express the genuine democratic concepts of the party and the revolution.

The Iraqi leadership has begun studying practical steps toward democratization, including new National Assembly elections early next year.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that the referendum has foiled much speculation on the future of the revolution, and showed the genuine nature of the people of Iraq and the creative capabilities of the strugglers of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The referendum gave the Arab nation a genuine, national, patriotic example of Arab democracy which stems from the Arab nation's heritage and rejuvenated thinking, and which responds to the objective circumstances through which Iraq is passing.

The paper stresses that the implications and results of the referendum were obvious in the big blow dealt to the American idol and its supporters. Despite intrigues, Western media were forced to implicitly and openly acknowledge the high credibility of the referendum in terms of performance and outstanding results; namely, the Iraqi people's overwhelming support for President Saddam Husayn.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says: The popular referendum has neutralized the desperate, abortive attempts to sever the strong relationship between leader Saddam Husayn and his faithful people. This will be a major factor in undermining the scheme of prolonging the unjust sanctions, whether the leaders of this scheme like it or not.

Law on Reorganizing Baghdad Municipality

JN1910091795 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 2

[RCC Decree No. 99 of 1995 issuing Law No. 16 of 1995 on Baghdad Municipality]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

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Revolution Command Council Decree No. 99 dated 25 Rabi' al-Thani 1416 hegira, corresponding to 20 September 1995:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decides to issue the following law:

Law No. 16 of 1995

Baghdad Municipality Law

Chapter One: Composition of Baghdad Municipality

Article 1: The Baghdad Municipality shall render municipal services within the boundaries of the City of Baghdad to ensure a planned development of the city commensurate with its status as the capital of Iraq.

Article 2: The Baghdad Municipality shall consist of:

First: Baghdad Municipal Council.
Second: Mayor of Baghdad.
Third: Deputy mayors.
Fourth: Baghdad Municipal Departments.
Fifth: Suburban Municipal Departments.

Article 3: The Baghdad Municipal Council shall exercise its jurisdictions and powers in accordance with the law.

Article 4: The Mayor of Baghdad is the municipality's highest official who guides its departments, coordinates between them, and plans their activities. Decisions, statements, and orders shall be issued in his name.

Article 5: The Mayor of Baghdad shall be assisted in the fulfillment of his tasks by several deputy mayors who will be answerable to him regarding the performance of their departments and sections and the fulfillment of their tasks and duties. The Mayor may empower any deputy mayor, or director genera, with some of his jurisdictions.

Chapter Two: Municipal Departments

Article 6: The deputy major for technical affairs shall be responsible for the following departments and sections:

First: Planning and Follow-up Department.
Second: Baghdad Water Department.
Third: Baghdad Sewage Department.
Fourth: Projects Department.
Fifth: Productive Units Department.
Sixth: Designs Department.
Seventh: Electronic Calculator Department.
Eighth: Plant Nurseries and Parks Department.
Ninth: Electricity and Lighting Department.

Article 7: The Planning and Follow-up Department shall receive and coordinate draft plans which are prepared by the different municipal departments and sections, study them, consolidate them into a single plan, follow up on their implementation once they have been approved by the Mayor of Baghdad, receive and analyze statistical reports, carry out surveys on manpower and analyze and develop them. The department shall consist of the following:

First: Planning Section.
Second: Statistics Section.
Third: Follow-up Section.
Fourth: Study and Research Section.
Fifth: Quality Control Section.
Sixth: Vocational Training Institute.

Article 8: The Baghdad Water Department shall prepare and execute plans for water purification projects and processes, set up networks for pure and waste water, manage and operate water projects, and maintain quality control. The department shall consist of the following:

First: Planning and Follow-up Section.
Second: Project Execution Section.
Third: Operations Section.
Fourth: Mechanical Section.
Fifth: Quality Control Section.
Sixth: Designs Section.
Seventh: Electronic Calculator Section.
Eighth: Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

Article 9: The Baghdad Sewage Department shall plan sewage projects and execute them once they have been approved, and operate and manage these projects. The department shall consist of:

First: Planning and Follow-up Section.
Second: Projects Execution Section.
Third: Operations Section.
Fourth: Designs Section.
Fifth: Maintenance Section.
Sixth: Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

Article 10: The Projects Department shall execute projects of buildings, roads, and parks. The department shall consist of the following:

First: Planning and Follow-up Section.
Second: Building Projects Section.
Third: Road Projects Section.
Fourth: Park Projects Section.
Fifth: Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

Article 11: The Productive Units Department shall operate and manage factories, stone quarries, vehicles for

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transporting products and raw materials, and maintain vehicles. The department shall consist of:

First: Planning and Follow-up Section.
Second: Productive Units Section.
Third: Vehicles Units Section.
Fourth: Spare Parts Stores Section.
Fifth: Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.
Sixth: Services Section.

Article 12: The Designs Department shall execute the basic planning of the City of Baghdad and propose its modernization, set rules for different buildings, help preserve the city's heritage, prepare plans for the allotment and division of lands, assume any other task that is related to the planning and reconstruction of the city, prepare architectural and construction plans for buildings, gardens, parks, and road networks, maintain technical supervision on the work of filing geographic, planning, and development data, and update the services map. The department shall consist of the following:

First: Basic Planning Section.
Second: Designs Section.
Third: Survey Section.
Fourth: Geographic Data Section.

Article 13: The deputy mayor for administrative affairs shall be responsible for the following departments and sections:

First: Administrative Department.
Second: Municipal Real Estate Department.
Third: Tourist Affairs Section.
Fourth: Control and Auditing Section.

Article 14: The Administrative Department shall be responsible for administrative, financial, and legal matters. It shall propose administrative, financial, accounting, and filing systems and supervise their implementation. It shall prepare the draft budget and programs for procurements, purchases, and storage operations and maintain records, cost accounts, and manpower plan and execute them once they have been approved. It shall also draft legislations, offer legal counsel, and represent the municipality before the courts and other quarters. The department shall consist of:

First: Personnel Affairs Section.
Second: Expenditure Section.
Third: Accounts Section.
Fourth: Legal Affairs Section.
Fifth: Stores Section.
Sixth" Services Section.
Seventh: Public Relations and Media Section.

Article 15: The Municipal Real Estate Department shall list and establish municipal real estate holdings, keep their records upto date, register them in the Real Estate Registration Department, carry out the sale and lease of these holdings, manage them, and collect and enhance their revenues. The department shall consist of:

First: Real Estate Section.
Second: Technical Affairs Section.
Third: Inspection and Follow-up Section.
Fourth: Evaluation, lease, and sale Section.
Fifth: Money Collection Section.
Sixth: Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

Chapter Three: Suburban Municipal Departments

Article 16: The deputy mayor for municipal affairs shall be in charge of the following departments and sections:

First: Al-Rusafah Municipal Department.
Second: Al-Karkh Municipal Department.
Third: Al-A'azamiyah Municipal Department.
Fourth: Al-Kazimiyah Municipal Department.
Fifth: Saddam City Municipal Department.
Sixth: Al-Mansur Municipal Department.
Seventh: Al-Rashid Municipal Department.
Eighth: Al-Karradah Municipal Department.
Ninth: 7 April Municipal Department.
Tenth: The Cemeteries Section.
Eleventh: The Healthy Garbage Disposal Section.

Article 17: First: The suburban municipal department shall be linked to the deputy mayor's office, which will supervise and control its work, plan its activities, and follow up on its performance. The limits of its powers in carrying out its tasks and jurisdictions shall be restricted to the sector allocated to it under the numerical system presently followed in the City of Baghdad.

Second: Each municipal department shall execute the services of beautifying and maintaining the tidiness of its geographic area, issue permits and licenses for buildings and the usages of lands and buildings, record offenses, charge contraveners, collect municipal revenues, maintain roads, buildings, and water networks other than the main water and sewage systems, carry out repairs, and maintain sewage systems and parks.

Article 18: First: The municipal department shall consist of the following:

A. Planning and Follow-up Section
B. Vehicles Section.
C. Tidiness and Garbage Treatment Section.
D. Parks and Land-scaping Section.
E. Water Maintenance Section.
F. Sewage Maintenance Section.

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G. Road maintenance Section.
H. Building Licenses and Permits Section.

I. Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

Second: The municipal departments shall coordinate and cooperate with one another to ensure the smooth operation of their common municipal services and tackle any fault that may affect the services rendered by other municipal departments.

Third: The Baghdad Municipal Council may adjust the geographic boundaries of the municipal departments as a result of an increase in population or services.

Chapter Four: General and Final Rules

Article 19: Each of the Baghdad Municipal Departments mentioned in this law shall be headed by a director general who holds at least a first university degree on subjects related to the tasks of his department.

Article 20: The mayor of Baghdad may issue any guidelines to facilitate implementation of this law, explain the tasks assigned to the sections mentioned therein, and specify the branches and units of each section as well as their powers, associations, and work methods.

Article 21: Baghdad Municipality Ordinance No. 6 of 1991 is hereby canceled.

Article 22: This law shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance in the Official Gazette.

Justificative reasons: The growth of the geographic area of the City of Baghdad and the big increase in its population have resulted in a bigger demand for municipal services and a diversification of the activities which are rendered by the municipal departments. This has made difficult for the city's municipality, under the old administrative structure and centralized system, to fulfill its mission. Thus, it has become essential to issue a new law on the reorganization of Baghdad Municipality which takes all these developments into consideration and responds to the need to give the best services to the City of Baghdad as the capital of Iraq and a historical center with its own heritage and distinct personality, and thus guarantee its cultural progress. This new law creates nine municipal departments whose geographic boundaries harmonize with those specified under the old numerical system for the City of Baghdad. The law considers each department a geographic entity which stands on its own and has all the means to render the best services and continue to improve on them. In order to achieve all those aims, this law has been promulgated.

Decree Pardoning Opposition Crimes Viewed

95LH0249A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 95 p 11

[Article by 'Ali al-Sarraf: "In Saddam Husayn's Pardon: 'Crimes' That We 'Criminals' Have Committed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's Revolution Command Council, which is one of the many organizational names of President Saddam Husayn's authority, has issued a decree pardoning all political "crimes committed" by opposition elements at home and abroad.

The decree notes that the intended "crime" is, first and foremost, the crime of opposition itself. Opposition, according to Iraqi totalitarianism, is a crime by itself and its perpetrator deserves incarceration and death.

The crime may be no more than an opinion, a statement, some passing words by a transient person, a slip of the tongue, or even a joke. All the same, it is a crime and many realize that its consequences begin with torture and often end with an unknown fate. Except for the good luck that allowed some opposition elements to roll in the blessing of escaping the government's clutches, their natural fate should have been death.

Here is the regime, showing compassion and issuing a pardon so opposition elements can have "another" opportunity to atone for the "crimes" they have committed against the regime and, subsequently, so the regime will give them another chance to live and to try "their right" to remain silent and "their freedom" to join the herd of supporters and followers who are purged of the madness of thinking and who are innocent of the charge of seeking change.

Iraqi totalitarianism, whatever its organizational name, will not understand that its concept of "political crime" is itself a crime in a world that is no longer capable of adapting to brutal and barbaric governments that repeat the defunct Cambodian model.

If this crime is added to the acts of mass annihilation, murder, and displacement and to the arbitrary arrests that, without any exaggeration, have touched more than 2 million citizens in the past quarter century, in addition to thousands of tortured by "party and revolution" whip-touting, handgun-carrying, and ear-cutting henchmen, then perhaps it is one of the ironies of fate that this regime would issue a pardon. It behooves the regime itself to try to get a pardon.

The real question is if Iraqis wish to pardon the oppressive regime that has transformed their life into a hell and that has squandered their country's resources and destroyed the chances of its development with stupid and rash military adventures. The question is if

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they can pardon a regime whose party has turned into a "mass" terrorization organization; whose "strugglers" have turned into murderers; and whose government has turned into a gang that monopolizes and controls the country's wealth according to its own temperament and estimates.

Like all past "pardon" stories, the story of the current "pardon" turns between the millstones of two delusions:

The first is the delusion of giving the impression that the amnesty is issued out of "strength." Strength, according to the current Iraqi political dictionary, means one thing: the regime's ability to deter its opponents and bring them to "their knees" and to especially try to transform their past opposition into loyalty and their past hostility to the president into the discovery, though belated, of the president's extraordinary talents so as to prepare to move opponents from the era of treason, conspiracy, and crime to the era of loyalty, obedience, and silence.

The second is the delusion of preoccupying the "party and the revolution" with a new "phase" that turns over the leaf of the entire past. This makes it seem as if "pardoning" the others' political crimes is an occasion to pardon one's self and to forgive one's acts. Because the beginning is a beginning for both parties ("criminal" and "innocent" party), not a single year has passed without the promulgation of some sort of amnesty pardoning the "others and one's self" as part of the regime's tempting offers to seek a new start to replace a previous start.

These pardons harbor much more of a self-rejuvenation endeavor than an endeavor to turn over a past leaf. The crime that has been possible to pardon will continue to be, according to the regime's tradition, a "crime" for all those who cannot practice silence, who dare to demand free expression, or who dare to call for change. Even though pardoning past crimes does not mean pardoning future crimes, the government, which gains self-purification from the new start, derives from this self-purification greater resolve to resume using the means of suppression, torture, execution, and displacement and the acts of mass murder after the new start. When blood overflows, a new pardon will be given to new "criminals," etc. The resumption of bloody actions is often justified by the excuse that not many opponents respond to the "sincere" offers to pardon "their crimes." Thus, the government becomes certain, or rather it assures itself, that these criminals don't deserve to be pardoned and that it is better to turn the millstone of murder and assassination anew so it will devour and crush the bodies of "traitors" who have proven with their refusal to return to the "revolution's tent," or even refusal to acknowledge the revolution's power, and that they are opponents who plan to continue to commit this heinous crime. To accept amnesty for "political crimes" in Iraq means two things: to abandon the crime of opposition and to acknowledge that the government is innocent of bloodshed.

Needless to say, the Iraqi Government does not realize that it commits a crime even when it means to cleanse its bloody past. It does not realize that it approaches its opponents with a self-exposing fascist tendency that makes all talk about "amnesty" a subject of ridicule.

What those in power should have done is to accept the people's right to express themselves and to exchange opinion, as well as their peaceful right to the rotation of power. They should have even realized that the presence of opposition is normal and axiomatic, not a catastrophe. The need for amnesty would not then arise and Iraq would not find itself divided into "innocent people" like 'Ali al-Kimawi [the chemist] and "criminals" like those who fled al-Kimawi's poison gases.

Military Said Capable of Defending Country

95LH0260A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Editorial by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Say Again and Again: Future Belongs to Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here are our weapons, which the aggressors destroyed at various phases of the struggle for survival we have waged and we continue to wage, returning to operation within the ranks of the army of freedom, justice, and national dignity. They are returning even though our enemies believed that the weapons had turned into useless "scrap" metal that had to be discarded. Iraqi hands, which have dazzled the world with the "miracles" they have made in an age when nothing remains other than the phenomenon of heads bowed before the U.S. dictatorship of evil and murder, reached out to restore for us and to return to service damaged tanks, silenced artillery, ruined missiles, and wrecked communication systems.

Why do we consider this accomplishment a great victory? The value of these campaigns, ordered by Leader President Saddam Husayn, lies not only in the military value of the equipment returned to service. Their greater and more significant value is in the indications of this politically and technologically creative Iraqi act. By carrying out these repair and restoration campaigns, Iraq has asserted politically that it is fully prepared to face any eventuality and to deter any aggression that may be committed while we go through the phase of deciding the fateful struggle.

In spite of the United States and its satellites, the Iraqi Army can still protect Iraq's independence and sovereignty because it possesses the material requirements,

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including weapons and equipment; and moral requirements, including determination to defend Iraq under all circumstances and eventualities. Therefore, the first message this restoration campaign sends the enemies is: You must not miscalculate and plan on the basis that the 30-state aggression has deprived Iraq of its deterrence capabilities because Iraq's Army is and will continue to be the biggest Arab deterrence and defense force.

What this great accomplishment signifies technologically is that it reaffirms a fact that must always be remembered, namely that the Iraqi intellect has escaped the yoke and destroyed it—the yoke that has denied Arabs and the third world entry into the field of manufacturing or developing sophisticated weapons so as to compel this world to rely on a certain world power, to lose its political will, and to become hostage to the will of those who manufacture and sell weapons.

What the Iraqi intellect has performed is truly an engineering-technological accomplishment that is more important than inventing a new machine. A destroyed machine requires two processes in order to be returned to service: To find out how it is manufactured and its manufacture. [as published] Therefore, restoring these weapons and this equipment to service is a creative accomplishment that confirms the Iraqi engineering intellect's ability to achieve self-reliance in numerous types of sophisticated weapons. This in itself is a major step forward on the path to bolster the Arab nation's power and to develop and train technical cadres in order to ensure this nation's revival and its self-reliance.

Finally, is there a rational tendency to utilize resources in the best manner in order to restore equipment that is considered terminated by all calculations and to return it to service so as to enhance the Iraqi deterrence capability? Raise your voices with praise for Allah, the Great and one God, who has enabled Iraqis and Saddam Husayn, their great leader, to keep hope and the spirit of defiance and to make modern miracles.

Dulaym Uprising, Tribal Dynamics Viewed

95LH0240A Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 33

[Article by 'Abd-al-Zahrah al-Rikabi: "Has 'Dulaym' Rebellion Reached Point of Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The movement staged by the Dulaym tribe in mid-May has occupied a large space in the international and Arab media. This confrontational movement, which was staged by this tribe against the Iraqi regime's institutions in al-Anbar-al-Ramadi Governorate currently, or in al-Dulaym Province previously, and the subsequent military activity carried out by the 14 Ramadan Armored Battalion from Abu-Gharib Camp and not by the 14 July Battalion, as wrongly reported by the media—this movement represents a breakup of the alliance between the tribe and the existing Iraqi regime. This tribe's members are the backbone on which Baghdad's regime relies, especially the regime's military and oppression establishments. A glance at the background of this movement shows that it erupted when al-Ramadi inhabitants received the bodies of four officers executed by Saddam's regime, including the body of Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, who was rumored to have tried to stage a coup at the beginning of this year.

But the fact is that this is not how things went. The victim, i.e. al-Dulaymi, had not considered a coup but had sought to become defense minister, taking advantage of the ouster of "al-Duri officers" who had demanded this position.

The officers were ousted and arrested in the wake of their demand. They had been a support for Saddam Husayn's regime, especially Sabir al-Duri who had held the position of military intelligence director, not to mention his brother who held the position of governor of al-Hillah. This is in addition to numerous other Duri officers who had held sensitive and important positions in the structure of Saddam's regime. The Duri officers included 'Izzat al-Duri, formerly Saddam's deputy or the so-called Revolution Command Council deputy chairman. As a result, this al-Dulaymi officer aspired to exploit and fill this void, but the unforgivable mistake he made is that he did not learn from the Duri officers' demand. Those officers made their demand in protest to the appointment of 'Udayy, dictator Saddam's son, who was a candidate for the position of defense minister. Vice Marshal al-Dulaymi demanded that he be paid the price of his tribe's support for Saddam's regime by being awarded the position of defense minister.

This is one aspect. The other aspect that must be discussed is that the mother of Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, the Air Force commander, is from al-Dulaym tribe. This is why Muzahim awarded Dulaymi military officers the highest Air Force positions. However, Saddam's wrath also touched Muzahim who was dismissed from the air force command and treated like his cousins Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan and Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, Saddam's half brothers, and Barzan Ibrahim al-Hasan before them. Struggle for power between various factions of the "ruling family" started in the 1980s as a consequence of Husayn Kamil al-Majid's marriage to Saddam's eldest daughter. This was followed by the marriage of Saddam Kamil al-Majid, Husayn Kamil's brother, to Saddam Husayn's middle daughter. The struggle between al-Majid faction and al-Hasan faction started with a battle, interspersed with bullets, at a farm

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the two factions had seized in Abu-Gharib District in the said period.

With the latest developments, the struggle for power was decided in favor of Saddam's two sons—'Udayy and Qusayy—with the support of al-Majid faction. The above background concerning the progress of developments in the struggle for power in Iraq draws attention to the fact that the Dulaym tribe was ultimately forced to oppose Saddam because it did not get its share of the power cake when it believed that it had the opportunity to get it. The Dulaym tribe believed that it was going to get this share after the departure or outset of al-Duri tribe and al-Jubur tribe officers on whom the Iraqi regime had relied in its security and military agencies.

Therefore, the loss of support from the said tribes, the latest of which is the Dulaym tribe, exposes Baghdad's regime to future blows. The regime no longer has any support or backing with which to perpetuate its existence, except from al-Bayjat tribe, which lives in the suburbs of the town of Tikrit, or from some small tribes that live close to the said town, such as al-'Ubayd and al-'Azzah tribes. These tribes cannot, however, continue their support for the regime endlessly, especially when we learn that there is constant hostility between them.

Let us return to the Dulaym tribe rebellion, which has come somewhat late. Had this tribe, or let us say inhabitants of al-Ramadi Governorate, responded to the rebellion in the south, in the central Euphrates area, and in the north in 1991 in wake of the Gulf war, the story would have been different. To make things clearer, we say that had the popular uprising found a response from al-Jubur tribe in Mosul Governorate, al-Duri tribe in the town of al-Dur, al-Dulaym tribe in al-Ramadi Governorate, and the Samarra'i tribe in Samarra'—one should keep in mind that these monikers are not derived from tribal names and that some of them derive from city names because some small clans and sub-clans live in these cities—Saddam's regime would have become something of the past.

Saddam's circle has shrunk, including even his closest associates. Therefore, a question dictates itself: What can the regime do, even if only for a time?

This is why the Dulaym tribe rebellion in al-Anbar Governorate has led to an turning point from which there is no return. With an "awakened conscience," these people have felt that history will not have mercy on them if they continue to support the dictatorial regime. This is the first thing. Secondly, the regime has sealed away any possibility of their being given any sensitive ministerial positions, such as the Defense Ministry to which Vice Air Marshal Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi had aspired. This aspiration was followed by the act of Staff Brigadier General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi, commander of the 14 Ramadan Battalion, who made a suicidal attempt to release his tribe members who had been detained Abu-Gharib Prison, located 11 km from the headquarters of his battalion. One should keep in mind that the battalion was entrusted with guarding broadcast transmitters and boosters in the said area.

The Dulaym tribe rebellion against Baghdad's current regime is a positive phase, not to say a positive condition. This is because the current phase reflects the shrinkage and erosion of the base of Saddam's regime. Therefore, the "Dulaymi rebellion," if one may call it so, is tantamount to the tribe's survival beyond the regime which the Dulaymis have backed and supported, but the Dulaymis have now realized that the regime is bringing the house down upon its own head. This is what is actually happening!

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Peres Expresses Appreciation for Embassy Vote

TA2410193995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed his appreciation to Congress for the move it is taking regarding the transfer of the U.S. Embassy. He said everyone in Israel is unanimous regarding united Jerusalem as Israel's capital and added that Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital. The move Congress initiated corresponds with history, geography, and reason, he said, adding that he is certain that it will not be long before most foreign embassies in Israel move to Jerusalem.

Rabin Welcomes Congress Vote on Embassy Move

TA2510082495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has welcomed the U.S. Congress decision to approve a draft bill providing for the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz spoke to the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] From Israel's point of view — and I believe from the point of view of all Israeli Governments since the Six-Day War — united Jerusalem under Israel's sovereignty is the capital of Israel whether this is recognized or not. We have always welcomed, first, any recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital; second, any recognition of Jerusalem's reunification under Israeli sovereignty; and third, the relocation of embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. There is no doubt that the relocation of an embassy such as that of the United States, whenever it happens, is always welcome, and we hope other embassies will also move to Jerusalem.

[Zissowitz] The big fear is the reaction of the Arabs, of course. The question of Jerusalem has not yet come up in the negotiations between us and the Palestinians. Aren't you afraid that at this point in time the decision of the U.S. Congress might become an obstacle in the negotiations?

[Rabin] As far as Egypt, Jordan, and I believe also the Palestinians are concerned, even if diplomatic protests are lodged — of course, nobody in the Arab world will welcome this decision, but I do not believe it will halt the process we and the Palestinians decided to pursue.

The Syrians are intransigent and support terror, and they will probably take advantage of it to exert pressure on elements in the Arab world to forestall any openness toward Israel. But Syria does that in any case. Jerusalem is definitely a significant excuse in the eyes of some elements in the Arab and Muslim world.

[Zissowitz] What about the status of the United States as a mediator in the negotiations? Won't a decision on an issue which will most certainly come up later on in the negotiations undermine the special status of the United States as exclusive mediator between us and the Arabs?

[Rabin] The status of the United States is very strong in the eyes of the entire world. Today the United States is the single most dominant factor in everything happening in the world, if it is prepared to undertake a role. [end recording]

Netanyahu on U.S. Embassy Vote, Kohl Meeting

TA2410175395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Likud Party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, in Germany, by Me'ir Einstein, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Mr. Netanyahu, I would like to hear your initial reaction to the following report: The U.S. Senate has just passed the bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by a majority of 93 versus 5. How do you view this?

[Netanyahu] Extraordinary! This is my reaction.

[Einstein] This is despite President Bill Clinton's well-known opposition.

[Netanyahu] Let me tell you something. We sometimes see that our American friends are more determined regarding the status of Jerusalem than some among us. I believe this is very important. It means that if we want real peace, it is impossible to prevent Israel from establishing its capital in Jerusalem, and foreign embassies are located in a capital. The PLO opposition to the opening of a U.S. embassy in western Jerusalem only serves to expose the type of peace it is thinking of more than anything else.

[Einstein] I believe this was the argument the senators used: Israel has a right to determine its own capital.

I would like to address your meeting with Chancellor Kohl who, of course, did not travel to the United States for the UN celebrations. He apparently claimed that five minutes is too short a time for him to deliver a speech. Rabin is speaking there now. What took place in your meeting, Mr. Netanyahu?

[Netanyahu] The meeting was initiated by the chancellor. He invited me to visit Germany, hold an official meeting with him, meet with the heads of the Bundestag and the Jewish community, and visit the Sachsen

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Hausen concentration camp. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the ties between the Likud and the ruling German party, which is a center-right party, just like Likud. We discussed a series of issues pertaining to our common interests. Primarily, we discussed means to promote real peace in the region and repel the threats that stem from this region.

I told him that it used to be said that if Menahem Begin's Likud ever came to power, this would bring disaster. The truth, however, was that when the Likud came to power, peace followed, because the Arabs had lowered their expectations to realistic levels. Furthermore, a Likud government can win the support of the entire nation in making the decisions required for making peace. I told the chancellor that when the Likud returns to power, it will bring real peace that will last for generations and not just be a temporary public relations gimmick.

[Einstein] Is Chancellor Kohl familiar with Israeli politics?

[Netanyahu] Yes, I think he is. I also believe that he wanted to hear my stands regarding the situation in the region, and I made it clear to him that I consider the spreading Islamic international terror network a grave threat. It is not only managed by Iran; Iran operates only the Shiites, and they constitute only a small number of the militant terrorists....

[Einstein, interrupting] Binyamin Netanyahu, we are sorry, but you are not yet the prime minister. The prime minister is currently addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, and we would like to hear him now, as we are running out of time. We will talk to you again during your three-day visit to Germany. Thank you very much, Mr. Netanyahu.

Paper Sees Good, Bad News in Senate Vote

TA2510111495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Jerusalem: Good and Bad News"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The good news is that a bill stating that the US recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was yesterday passed in the Senate by an overwhelming majority of 93 to 5. The bill was expected to pass by a similarly crushing majority in the House of Representatives last night, and be signed into law by President Bill Clinton in the coming weeks despite the White House's pro forma objection to the bill.

The bill's language is unequivocal. Under the headline "Statement of the policy of the United States" it says: "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected; Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the state of Israel; and the United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999."

And it has some teeth, too. It withholds 50 percent of the State Department's funding for maintaining embassies in fiscal year 1999 unless the US declares that the Jerusalem embassy has opened.

The bad news is that the original bill, proposed by Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona and sponsored by leading Republicans and Democrats, has been watered down to accommodate the administration and the Israeli government, both fearful of its impact on the negotiations with the PLO.

According to the compromise version, the president will be able to suspend the move of the American embassy to Jerusalem at six month intervals "to protect the national security interests of the United States." There is no limit to the manner of times the president can exercise this privilege.

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the bill's main sponsor and the leading Republican contender for the presidency, has inserted a "colloquy" with Kyl in the Congressional Record, which asserts the presidential waiver is strictly limited. It is meant to be "interpreted narrowly," Dole stressed, so that the president cannot "infinitely" delay the embassy's opening.

But the fact is that if Clinton or his successor feel that the embassy's move should not occur until the "final status" talks with the PLO are concluded, the "Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995" will be vitiated. Only the physical move of the embassy offices and the ambassador's residence to the capital will make world recognition of Israel's capital a fact of life.

The bill's passage was intended to greet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on his visit to Washington today, as a gesture on the occasion of Jerusalem's 3000th anniversary. But it also emphasizes some intrinsic weaknesses in Israel's position. Israel is the only country whose capital the US and most of the world's governments do not recognize as such, and it is the only country whose government feels it must tacitly undermine efforts to have its capital recognized for fear that it might antagonize its adversaries.

An even sadder commentary on Israel's position on Jerusalem is a recent declaration by the Oslo agreement's chief architect, Minister for Economic Planning Yosi Beilin. Published a day before virtually the whole US Congress voted that Jerusalem must remain undivided, Beilin's pronouncement favors dividing the city

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between Israeli and Palestinian sovereignties. That Rabin called Beilin's proposal irresponsible is hardly comforting. As one prominent commentator has put it, what Beilin declares today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres adopts tomorrow, and Rabin signs the day after.

Costa Rican Embassy To Stay in Jerusalem

TA2410115995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Oct 95 p A1

["Exclusive" report by Aluf Ben, in Prime Minister Rabin's entourage in New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres yesterday assured Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that his country will leave its embassy in Jerusalem despite the heavy pressures to move it out of the city.

Costa Rica and El Salvador are the only two countries whose embassies are located in Jerusalem. Costa Rica has supported Israel in UN votes for many years, including a period during which Israel was isolated in the international community.

Figueres told Rabin that Costa Rica has sought to be admitted in the Nonaligned Movement, which convened in Colombia last week. Syria demanded that Costa Rica move its embassy out of Jerusalem as a precondition for discussing the request. "We pointed out that we will not give in on this issue, and we were not accepted by the organization," Figueres said.

Costa Rica has appealed for Israeli economic aid and assistance in obtaining aid from international economic bodies. At first the Costa Ricans suggested that Israel purchase $80 million worth of their government bonds. A check by Jerusalem revealed that the step was legally problematic. Israel offered, instead, to open a $10-million credit line for Costa Rica in the framework of foreign trade risks insurance.

Figueres asked Rabin for Israeli equipment for the Costa Rican Police's war on drug-related crimes. The Costa Rican internal security minister and the president's mother, a former ambassador to Israel, will visit Israel next month.

Figueres asked Israel to act with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for aid for his country. It was agreed that the two countries' central bank governors will meet to discuss the issue soon. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres raised the issue at his recent meeting with chiefs of the IMF.

Court Issues Order on Pollard Citizenship

TA2510111995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Court of Justice has issued an order nisi obliging the interior minister to show cause within 30 days as to why he would not grant Israeli citizenship to Jonathan Pollard in accordance with the law which enables granting citizenship to people living outside Israel.

The order was issued in response to an appeal filed by Jonathan and his wife, Esther, who demanded to be granted citizenship just as it was conferred to Prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Pollard argued in his appeal that he put his life at risk for the sake of Israel's security and that Israel turned its back on him.

Rabin Comments on Syria's Position on Peace

TA2510093495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will today wrap up his visit to New York and depart for Washington. Yesterday he addressed a festive session of the UN General Assembly. Once again, the representatives of Libya, Iran, and Syria walked out of the hall during his speech. This morning, in an interview with our U.S. correspondent Razi Barqay, the prime minister attacked Damascus' positions, saying: Syria is making a mistake if it thinks that through extreme positions or by supporting terror it will manage to bring Israel to its knees.

[Begin recording] [Barqay] Mr. Prime Minister, we are used to seeing the Libyans and the Iranians leave the hall, but how do you explain the fact that the Syrians walked out?

[Rabin] I have no doubt that Syria is probably disappointed that its dictates in the peace process have not been accepted, and this is reflected in its extreme positions vis-a-vis Israel and Israel's actions to expand the openness in the whole world and in the Middle East. Let me give you an example from the past: Costa Rica wanted to join the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], but Syria strongly objected to it citing as a reason the fact that Costa Rica maintains an embassy in Jerusalem. I was happy to hear from the president of Costa Rica that despite the fact that his country was not accepted as a member of NAM, the Syrian threat did not change his position with regard to maintaining an embassy in Jerusalem and his relations with Israel.

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[Barqay] Yitzhaq Rabin added that representatives of Arab countries whom he met during his stay in New York told him that Syria and Saudi Arabia had been pressuring them not to get too close to Israel. The prime minister said that al-Asad wrongly believes this will help him bring us to our knees.

[Rabin] Damascus hosts the extreme Palestinian terrorist organizations. The Islamic Jihad leader's headquarters has been in Damascus for years and the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have recently moved there, as proved by the fact that the detailed statement assuming responsibility for the bus bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem and Hamas' policy originate in Damascus.

[Barqay] Does this actually mean that it is your assessment that Syria is not interested in peace with Israel?

[Rabin] Either that or else it wrongly believes that by exerting such pressure on Israel it will make it change its positions. Unless Syria proves its desire to make peace, not by posing demands to Israel or through terror, only then will a real chance to advance the peace process open.

[Barqay] One more question, sir. On the eve of your departure for Washington you received a present from the U.S. Congress. Are you pleased about it or does it rather leave you cold?

[Rabin] Of course, I regard the relocation of any embassy to Jerusalem as an important development for Israel, although our position about a united Jerusalem under Israel's sovereignty and the capital of Israel remains steadfast, regardless of the position of other countries .

[Barqay] Yosi Beilin said in Israel that there is something to talk about on the issue of Jerusalem. Is this a new government position?

[Rabin] With all due respect to Minister Yosi Beilin, the government's positions are expressed by the prime minister and the foreign minister. And the government's position is firm: a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty and the capital of Israel. Whoever says anything else is simply making unauthorized statements on behalf of the government. [end recording]

Peres Warns Arab States Over Missed Opportunities

MS2510101495 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 25 Oct 95 p 8

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Peres by Julian Ozanne in Jerusalem on 24 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Unless Arabs states opened their economies, adapted to the new rules of market-based global economics and changed their attitude to doing business with Israel they would miss out on the opportunities of an unfolding Middle East peace, Mr Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister, said yesterday.

In an interview in the run-up to this Sunday's Middle East and North African economic summit in Jordan, Mr Peres said Arab fears of future Israeli economic domination were "one of the greatest nonsenses" in his life.

"Unless the Arab world departs from the old-fashioned thinking they will pay the price, not us," he said. "It is the story of old prejudices and suspicions totally unfounded on reality."

Israel, he said, was an $80bn (51bn pounds) economy, increasingly based on high-tech enterprises and looking towards the markets of Europe, the US and Asia, not towards the Arab states. "There is nothing like an Arab economy, there is Arab poverty. Who wants to dominate poverty?.. The only domination today is by competition."

Israelis genuinely wanted to see economic growth in the Arab world "because lower standards of living feed Islamic fundamentalism and violence". Arab nations needed to look more at what was happening in Asia and Latin America and adopt economic policies to fuel investment and trade.

Policies that needed to be implemented quickly included economic and trade liberalisation, privatisation, equal rights for women and a diversion of government expenditure from the military to education.

"There are so many opportunities in the world today that nobody knocks on the door of the Middle East. If the Middle East will not understand this, it will be left out and looked over," Mr Peres said.

Countries like Egypt had to realise quickly that "it is not Israel that is competing with them — it is another age which is competing with them and nobody can stop it".

Israel did not introduce a new economic order. Israel was simply saying: "Gentlemen, look around, there are new bells ringing all over the world. Look how fast Asia

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and Latin America are developing. You cannot remain dormant. You cannot win a race if you fall asleep."

The foreign minister said Israel wanted Lebanon and Syria to join moves towards regional integration and the development of a Benelux- type arrangement between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians but that the region could not afford to wait for Syria to make peace with Israel.

Institutions like the Arab League, which had isolated the Jewish state, needed to be scrapped and replaced with new institutions like the proposed Middle East development bank, which would reflect the new political-economic reality, he added.

Netanyahu Opposes Evacuation of Janin

TA2510114595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We asked Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud head, currently in Germany, for a reaction to the Janin evacuation:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] The problem is that the moment you leave, you in fact tell 'Arafat to make sure that the area you leave does not serve as a springboard for terror. The area in question now is within a stone's throw of 'Afula. Our experience to date is that while we evacuate, 'Arafat does not take care of terror. Terrorists did come out of Jericho, killed Israelis in Wadi al-Qilt, and were not touched — nor can we reach them. Murderers come out of Gaza, but we cannot enter Gaza. Murderers will now come out of Janin too.

It is true that 'Arafat is now trying to strike a deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but he does not demand that they withdraw their intention to liquidate Israel. On the contrary, he tells them that their goal will be promoted if they temporarily halt terror until the Palestinians receive Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, and Bethlehem. He tells them: Let us receive these places first, and then we will talk about terror, then you can do what you want to do. Therefore, whether reference is to immediate or delayed terror, we are in fact losing control over the areas which adjoin Israel's towns, and this naturally drives peace away rather than advances it. [end recording]

Third Way Council To Prepare for Elections

TA2410195295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, the Third Way Council made a decision regarding the establishment of a political party, but there is no agreement on the meaning of the decision. The resolution states that the movement will continue to prepare to run in the elections, but Chairman Yehuda Har'el said this is not yet a formal decision on the establishment of a party. This will be decided by the future elected council.

Our party affairs correspondent reports, however, that the decision — made almost unanimously — is being interpreted by the members of the Third Way Council as a practical announcement on the establishment of a new party.

Knesset Member Avigdor Qahalani and Reserves Lieutenant General Dan Shomron expressed great satisfaction with the decision, while Reserves Major General Moti Hod, a Labor member, announced that he is quitting Labor [as heard] after a reservation he had raised was rejected by a vast majority.

Poet Hayim Guri, Third Way founder, left the hall angrily before the vote was even held.

Labor Denounces Third Way Decision

TA2510052395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor has denounced The Third Way's decision to become a party in order to run in the Knesset elections. Party Secretary Nisim Zvili told our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel that the decision might pave the way for the Likud's rise to power. The Third Way will soon conduct a census of its members.

Prison Service Prepares for Possible Riots, Raids

TA2410193795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Studio talk between Anchor Ge'ula Even and police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Even] The Prison Service has recently decided to institute special preparations in the security prisons in the wake of the release of Palestinian prisoners and the fact that 2,000 other security prisoners are still in jail. Police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov is in the studio. Do they fear a mutiny?

[Kohen-Aharonov] Mutiny is perhaps too harsh a term, but the Prison Service is taking recent developments in the security prisons very seriously. Some 2,000 security prisoners who remain imprisoned are considered the hard core. Some of them have blood on their hands, and approximately 1,000 belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which oppose ending terror. Recently, prisoners who belong to Fatah announced that they are disappointed with the selective discharge. They sent a letter to the prison commissioner,

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saying: We will express our disappointment by staging hunger strikes and calling on the Palestinian public to oppose the agreement and the imminent elections.

In view of obtained intelligence information, as well as this lettison Commissioner Arye Bibi ordered the guards to maintain a special state of preparedness in the security facilities. He ordered a check of all the warning and alert systems, a review of the emergency procedures, and the reinforcement of the forces in the facilities. The intention is to be prepared for possible riots, strikes, and even the possibility of a raid on one of the jails from the outside to be carried out, some sources believe, in order to take guards hostage.

Prison Service spokesman Moshe Malul confirmed that the prisons are on a special state of alert in view of the new situation. He noted that this is why the transfer of security prisoners into facilities inside the Green Line is currently under way.

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Politicians Concerned About U.S. Embassy Move

JN2410180195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian political circles expressed concern over the prospect of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. These circles said such a step would negatively affect the peace process in the region and harm U.S. credibility as a sponsor of the peace process.

Amman insists nothing should be done to prejudice the status of Jerusalem before the final negotiations on this holy city. Jordanian political quarters say the kingdom is taking care of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem pending a final solution to the status of this city and to avoid any vacuum that could enable Israel to create a fait accompli in eastern Jerusalem.

King Holds Meetings During UN Anniversary Visit

Meets Rabin at UN Headquarters

JN2210200395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the United Nations celebrations, a meeting was held between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

In statements to reporters, his majesty the king and the Israeli prime minister hoped that peace will prevail in the region on all tracks.

[Begin recording, in English] [Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] the Syrians [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I am hopeful that there will be movement towards a comprehensive settlement in our area. I am sure the prime minister would wish it too. But as far as we are concerned, we are very very happy, indeed, to reaffirm what I said earlier. Every aspect of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty has been dealt with, and has really been the hope that we have for the future. Everything has been agreed to. Whatever we [pauses] was to be discussed has been discussed. So this is all behind us. And we are working together with all our spirit and with all our hearts, and with all the hope that we have that this relationship will be an example to others in our entire region.

[Rabin] Well, Your Majesty: Thank you very much for your magnificent speech on this special meeting of the United Nations Assembly. As his majesty mentioned, we have today a unique phenomenon — overflights by Israeli, Jordanian planes, fighters, helicopters in a parade of peace over the skies of Jordan and Israel. This is another symbol of the end of war and hostility, building relations of peace. If you will ask me what is the next step, the next step will be the Amman conference. It is going to be a unique international conference that his majesty hosts in Amman with the purpose of bringing about—after signing the peace, after reaching agreement with the Palestinians, after having peace with, between Israel and Egypt—to build the structure of economic and social development with all the countries and the peoples that have engaged in peace, are engaging in the effort to bring about peace. I believe beyond the diplomatic peace, we need to build a structure of more progressive, more advanced, a regional development for the benefit of the people of the area. For me, this is the next step, which, no doubt, is very crucial and very important to make peace more stable, more solid. Thank you very much.

[Husayn] I agree with you very very much indeed sir, and with every word that you have said. You've expressed what I have in my heart and my mind. [end recording]

Meets 'Arafat at UN Headquarters

JN2210201095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat at the UN Headquarters. The talks addressed fraternal ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the ways to promote them in various areas.

'Arafat expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to support the Palestinian cause. He also underlined the importance of continuing bilateral coordination to promote peace so that it may prevail throughout the region.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military adviser to his majesty the king; and the Jordanian permanent representative to the United Nations.

Meets Gulf, Other Leaders at Residence

JN2410103695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received at his New York residence Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Khalifah Al Thani and discussed bilateral relations and ways of boosting them.

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Talks also dealt with the upcoming Amman economic summit.

The Qatari minister expressed his country's support of the summit, and said the Qatari delegation would represent both public and private sectors. The minister commended Jordan's policy of achieving a just and comprehensive in the Middle East.

In a separate audience, Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Bin- Muhammad Al Sa'id called on his majesty at his residence in New York. Prince Fahd underlined the distinguished relations between Oman and Jordan, and discussed the Mideast peace process and the Amman economic summit.

His majesty also met with Lithuania's president, who voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to achieve peace in the region as well as of the democratic trend in the kingdom.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos also called on his majesty and expressed support of Jordan's endeavors towards peace and stability. He said the Philippines was looking forward for more bilateral cooperation.

His majesty also met the Dutch prime minister and discussed relations between the two countries. The Dutch premier announced his country would open an embassy in Amman early next year and would take part in the Amman economic summit. The king outlined the peace steps that Jordan has achieved so far on the road to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

His majesty also received the Tajik president, who invited his majesty to visit his country. Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

Confers With Saudi Defense Minister

JN2410181595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed at his residence in New York yesterday evening.

The Moroccan crown prince conveyed to his majesty greetings from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. During the meeting, they discussed the Amman economic summit.

His Highness the Moroccan crown prince asserted that his country will participate in the summit, and that he will lead his country's delegation to it.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah, and His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah, sons of his majesty.

In another development, His Majesty King Husayn received at his residence in New York His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense minister, and a number of senior Saudi officials.

They discussed relations between both fraternal countries as part of a comprehensive review of bilateral relations since the Gulf crisis and until now. The two sides emphasized the need to circumvent differences in previous viewpoints and work for restoring bilateral ties to the pre-Gulf crisis level.

They also discussed the peace process and its recent developments. Both sides stressed their interest in achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East in a way that enables their peoples to circumvent the adverse effects of the past decades of conflict, resume the march of economic and social development, and improve the standard of living of peoples in the region.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the foreign minister. It was attended on the Saudi side by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; His Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Washington; His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-Sa'ud; His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-Sultan; Musa'id al-'Ayban, minister of state [title as heard]; and the head of the office of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Holds New Conference With Saudi Prince

JN2410211195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[News conference by King Husayn and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense minister, with unidentified Saudi and other correspondents, following a meeting between the two men at King Husayn's residence in New York on 23 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Majesty: You have met with His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. What did you discuss, and what is new in Jordanian-Saudi relations?

[Husayn] This is one of the happiest and dearest occasions in a lifetime. It was an opportunity for me to meet with a dear and great brother, an old friend and a brother.

God be praised, we had an opportunity to discuss much of the past and the pains we went through in Saudi

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Arabia and Jordan alike. With God's help and with the support of His majesty my brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, this page has been turned over through the emergence of facts and through mutual understanding.

God willing, we are now at the doors of a new time. These fraternal and traditional relations will be stronger than ever in the interest of our two countries and peoples, our nation, and our one family, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: You participated in the UN's anniversary celebrations. What is your assessment of the UN role in serving the causes of the Arab and Islamic World? What are your expectations regarding the future of inter-Arab relations?

[Husayn] My expectations regarding inter-Arab relations are good ones, God willing, especially when we meet with genuine Arabs on the roads of good, construction, cooperation, solidarity, integration, and work for the future and for our generations to come, so they will lead a free and decent life on their land and national soil throughout the great homeland and in each Arab country.

As for relations with the rest of the world, they are affected, positively or negatively, by the progress we make in our cooperation. God willing, we will appear in a way that befits us. Regarding the occasion itself, the 50th anniversary, I think there is a change for the better in the Arab world and the region in which we live. Despite doubts by some, I think the opposite is true. We have faith in God and confidence in our individual when we provide for this individual the opportunity to make progress and achieve his ambitions and aspirations. This way, we can catch up with others and restore the status we once had. Praise be to God, we are strong in the face of all challenges and dangers. Regarding the 50th anniversary of the international organization, there is no doubt that it has offered a great deal. However, we hope that it will be able shortly to reconsider its own situation so that it will be able to reflect today's realities and not the situation as it was 50 years ago.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: Does your meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz bode well for the Saudi and Jordanian people?

[Husayn] I hope so. For me, I can only repeat to his highness and to my brothers and people now that I personally and the Jordanian and Hashemite family consider ourselves one family and brothers with the esteemed Saudi royal family and with the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We support them with all our resources and capabilities. We support each other.

[Correspondent] Your Highness: We also ask your highness about this meeting.

[Sultan] Thank you your majesty. My meeting with my brother His Majesty King Husayn is not strange at all. The strange thing is for us not to meet. Therefore, the relations of the custodian of the two holy mosques with his brother His Majesty King Husayn are genuine and stem from our love for our Arabism and our two peoples. I hope we will not view this meeting as a new start. Not at all. It is only a renewal of the bright past and a continuation of a prosperous future, thank you.

[Husayn] God willing.

[Correspondent] Are we witnessing a beginning of Arab reconciliation in general?

[Sultan] In my view, Arab reconciliation is happening all the time as long as there is an Arab League and Arab meetings in light of the UN Charter and the Arab League and the Charter of the Islamic Organization. Therefore, exaggerating the issue of Arab reconciliation is done by the foreigners only, and not the Arabs.

[Correspondent] On the 50th UN anniversary, you spoke about reform. Do you have specific proposals in mind?

[Husayn] I think I and others have proposals. Does the Security Council now reflect realities in today's world? Is there a need to reconsider its status? Given the end of the Cold War, is it possible to reconsider the use of the veto right by one member only of the Security Council, or should it be reconsidered whereby resolutions are adopted by a majority vote. This is in addition to factors related to reorganization of the UN organ so that it will become more effective in addressing problems in this world.

[Correspondent] Are there specific proposals?

[Husayn] These are the dimensions. I do not have proposals other than what I have mentioned. These are the problems which should be addressed.

Greets Czech, Bahraini, Tunisian Officials

JN2310073895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received at his residence in New York the president of Czech Republic Vaclav Havel who invited his majesty the king to visit the republic.

Mr. Havel also voiced appreciation of his majesty's ongoing efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said these efforts had a positive effects on the security, stability, and development of the region.

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His majesty also received the Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak. During the audience, his majesty and Shaykh Muhammad discussed issues related to pan-Arab relations. His majesty asserted that pan-Arab understanding should be built on clear new basis of mutual confidence. The foreign minister of Bahrain voiced appreciation of his majesty's efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

His majesty the king also received the foreign minister of Tunis Habib Ben Yahia who conveyed to his majesty greetings from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The foreign minister of Tunisia also conveyed to his majesty an invitation from Mr. Ben Ali to visit Tunis to enhance means of bilateral communication and consultation on various issues of mutual concern.

Meets Algerian, Kazakhstan Presidents

JN2410064795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0500 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received at his residence in New York the Algerian President, Liamine Zeroual, on the sidelines of the United Nations 50th anniversary celebrations in which his majesty is taking part.

The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern as well as means of boosting Arab cooperation and the latest Arab and international developments.

His majesty also received the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. His majesty and Mr. Nazarbayev discussed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them to the benefit of the two peoples.

The Prime Minister, Zayd Bin-Shakir; their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah and Prince Faysal; the Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim attended the meetings.

Briefed by Ekeus on Special Commission

JN2410205295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At his place of residence in New York today, His Majesty King Husayn received Rolf Ekues, head of the UN Special Commission for eliminating Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Ekeus briefed his majesty on the commission's achievements and hoped that Iraq will cooperate with the commission so that it may conclude its mission and pave the way for alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the foreign minister.

Meets With Heads of Jewish Groups

JN2410204995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at his place of residence in New York today the heads of Jewish groups in New York, who expressed their admiration for the king and appreciation for his wisdom, farsightedness, and continuous efforts to achieve comprehensive peace and stability in the Middle East, so that the peoples of the region can pursue their drive toward development and work for a better future for the coming generations. The meeting was attended by his excellency the prime minister and the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Crown Prince Receives Canadian Jewish Delegation

JN2310182295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Crown Prince Hasan, his royal highness the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning a Canadian United Jewish Appeal delegation, which is currently visiting Jordan as part of its tour of the region.

His royal highness stressed the Jordanian point of view regarding the establishment of peace in the Middle East and in other parts of the world. His highness said that there is still much to be done to establish peace after all that has already been achieved in the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement. This agreement, he added, has proven that he who makes peace in his own region can carry this peace to other parts of the world. This fact was proven by Jordan in sending a humanitarian mission to Bosnia.

His highness described the Amman economic summit as an historic opportunity to work for the future of the region and its rehabilitation in all aspects and dimensions.

Trial of 'Militant' Accused of Slander Begins

JN2310124995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 95 p 3

["Special to JORDAN TIMES" by Rana Husayni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The trial of a muslim militant charged with slander against His Majesty King Husayn will open today [23 October] at the State Security Court, according to court officials.

'Atta Abu-Rishtah, 53, spokesman for the illegal Hizb al-Tahrir (Liberation Party), was detained on Oct. 15 by

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authorities in his office in Rusayfah, nine days after he was interviewed by an Arabic weekly AL-HIWAR in which he allegedly slandered the King.

Slander against the royal family is a violation of the law and is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

According to the State Prosecutor General's charge sheet, Mr. Abu-Rishtah, who is an engineer and hails from the village called Ra'ana near Hebron made several remarks slandering the King. One of the remarks said: "What to say to a ruler, official, groups or individuals who see in the U.S. Britain, Russia, France and the rest of the infidel colonial countries their own Gods? This is treason. It is a betrayal of God, his Prophet and the faithful."

The charge sheet said that the suspect confessed to slandering the King when questioned by the authorities "The King and his regime in Jordan are unjust and corrupt because they do not rule in accordance with God's teachings," the charge sheet quoted him as saying.

"My view of King Husayn is always the same. As long he does not abide by God's teaching, he is unjust and corrupt."

According to the Prosecutor General the evidence to be used against Mr. Abu-Rishtah includes his own testimony and the issue of AL-HIWAR newspaper in which the interview appeared. Also the prosecutor will call 'Abdallah Muhammad Bani Issa, editor of AL-HIWAR newspaper, to testify.

AL-HIWAR is a new tabloid weekly based in Irbid. The issue in which the interview appeared was only its fourth Mr. Abu-Rishtah was frequently arrested over the past 10 years for militant activities and affiliation with Hizb al-Tahrir, which is an outlawed fundamentalist group that does not recognise any existing Arab or Muslim regime. It calls for establishing a caliphate style Islamic state.

Paper Criticizes Israel 'Interrogation' Techniques

JN2510084795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Israel Tolerates Torture"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When even Israeli Attorney General Micha'el Ben-Ya'ir finds the methods of interrogation of his country's security service, the Shin Bet, unacceptable and illegal, then there must be something terribly wrong with the way Israel goes about questioning Palestinian suspects. Specifically speaking, Shin Bet's resort to violent shaking of detainees, better known as "tiltulin," has already led to a known death of a Palestinian this year. There may have been other fatalities that were left unreported.

After accusing the state security agency of deliberately misleading the cabinet to win consent to this unlawful method of interrogation, by presenting inaccurate demonstration of the shaking method of the government, the attorney general criticised the extension by three months of a special ministerial permit for Shin Bet to use harsh interrogation methods including violent shaking. "We will not open torture chambers to replace the gathering of intelligence," Mr. Ben-Ya'ir warned recently in an interview with an Israeli newspaper. "I am not willing to see every Palestinian youth with a black beard who is detained for questioning end up brain damaged," he added.

We hardly expected that the era of peace in the area would perpetuate the practice of torture and ill-treatment of detainees in Israel. Need we remind the Israelis that they are party to the International Convention Against Torture? It is obvious that the ministeral committee which extended the inhuman treatment of suspects beyond the original two-year period has not acquainted, or chose not to acquaint, itself with the provisions of the convention against torture, because had it done so it would not have given a green light once again to Israeli interrogators to shake violently detained Palestinians.

Amnesty International (AI) was obviously so alarmed by Israeli indifference to international standards that it had once again voiced its concern on Monday. What AI is now targeting is the draft amendment to Israel's criminal code that purports to legitimise torture. This projected change in Israeli law would reinterpret the phenomenon of torture in a restrictive manner in order to exclude from its scope torture perpetrated during interrogation by police. This new legal construction would make a mockery of international norms which Israel is committed to observing and enforcing.

Israel has always bragged about its democracy and respect for human rights. Instead of setting a good example for the region, it has, by its own admission, turned into a principal violator of human rights. Perhaps the Jewish state is also drifting to the proposition that the end justifies the means. If that is the case, then it is no different from the many countries which are paying only lip service to international human rights standards.

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President, Prime Minister Mark UN Anniversary

NC2510050495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] President al-Hirawi today marked the United Nations 50th anniversary. He said Lebanon hopes that UN resolutions will be implemented without discrimination among countries. He added that Lebanon seeks a just and comprehensive peace and that it was saddened by some leaders' speeches yesterday calling what is happening in Lebanon is terrorism. He noted that liberation of land is a duty not terrorism.

[Al-Hirawi] *In most cases, we see that the resolutions passed by the Security Council, a UN body, are implemented in some areas, while resolutions concerning other regions are kept in deep freeze on the UN's and major powers' shelves.*

It was our luck in this region that very few of the resolutions passed were actually implemented, namely in our region—Lebanon and Syria—as well as resolutions concerning the Palestinian people's rights. We will maintain our membership in the United Nations and in all its organizations, but we hope that its resolutions will be implemented for once and that the resolutions will not discriminate against countries.

In yesterday's speeches, the [UN] secretary general complained of a budget deficit. Thank God, despite the economic conditions suffered by Lebanon, there was not a day when Lebanon did not pay its share. As for the major powers, their contributions to the United Nations were not paid for political reasons, not because of budget deficits.

Moreover, I hope there will be no discrimination between one country and another. Lebanon, which seeks a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, was saddened to hear some of the world representatives who delivered speeches yesterday calling what is happening in Lebanon terrorism. God forbid, liberation of the land is a duty, not terrorism. The world should accept for Lebanon what it accepts for itself. All we hope for on this occasion is the implementation of Resolution 425 in Lebanon to liberate our land. Then let us be held accountable whether we have Resistance forces or not. This is a cherished occasion for the world. I hope the United Nations and its organizations will bring good and provide help, not just meetings as we saw today. Thank you.

The prime minister also commented on the UN anniversary and expected the world organization to implement Resolution 425.

[Al-Hariri] *Lebanon is one of the nations that founded the United Nations in 1945 and participated in devising its charter and the human rights convention. It chaired the UN General Assembly and was a member of the Security Council, one of the most important UN organizations.*

The United Nations has been in Lebanon through the UN Interim Forces in the south, the role and sacrifices of which we appreciate, and through its offices and various types of aid to the Lebanese people and institutions.

Lebanon, which looks with hope and satisfaction at the UN role in resolving conflicts peacefully, perpetuating world peace, and preserving countries' rights, expects the United Nations to implement Resolution 425 to liberate Lebanese land from Israeli occupation and assert the world organizations' credibility and resolutions.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held a reception for diplomats accredited to Lebanon and a group of journalists to mark the UN's 50th anniversary. In his address, Buwayz asserted Lebanon's commitment to the United Nations and to its mission and to working for the goals of world peace. He criticized the United Nations for its failure to enforce treaties for everyone, especially regarding the dangerous race for nuclear and chemical armament. He called for maintaining the United Nations and the Security Council as a fair authority for world peace and stability. He questioned the UN's financial and administrative independence.

[Buwayz] *We wanted today to emphasize Lebanon's commitment to the UN goals and message and that we also should be realistic. We wanted to emphasize that these ceremonies should not be mere formal celebrations and that, rather, we should be frank and discuss our problems. As much as we are committed to the UN message and goals, we are committed to rectifying its procedures and reviving its credibility in all circumstances. We look forward to the day when the world is assured of its rights and when the United Nations is today more than ever before [sentence incomplete as heard]. Now that the world's problems have gone beyond countries' borders, penetrated barriers, and become international, they need an international authority to handle them. Peace be upon you.*

On the same occasion, Information Minister Farid Makari said the Lebanese people will not forget this organization's contributions to peace and security in the occupied south and to their recovering domestic situation.

He added that on its 50th anniversary, the organization seems necessary for all countries, which must unite to enhance its role in various spheres.

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Deputy Says al-Hirawi Extension 'Disreputable'

NC2410134295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Najah Wakim questioned the government today about behavior which he claimed violated the law and the Constitution. He also asked why the authorities, through their organs, decided to punish a number of intellectuals, particularly university teachers, for signing a statement which contained their opinion on the issue of amending the Constitution. He asked why the authorities did not take any measures against those who demonstrated in Zahlah on the occasion of the extension of the presidential term.

On the decision to ban demonstrations, Wakim said:

[Begin Wakim recording] I would like to bring to mind that this heavy-handed decision issued on July 93 banning demonstrations and gathering has been applied in a selective manner many times. A demonstration of the poor was subdued. This demonstration was called for by the General Labor Federation for the sake of a piece of bread. A number of youths are still being detained even now, in violation of the law and the Constitution. When the prime minister returned safely from a [word indistinct] tour, sheep and camel were slaughtered, citizens were terrorized, roads were blocked off, and a campaign of general cleanliness was started. In order to amend an article, roads were closed off and bullets were shot in the air. A deputy got married and his supporters were going to visit him to offer flowers, but were banned from visiting him. The supporters were arrested. So what kind of law, what kind of justice is being applied in this country? If on the 19th [not further specified], we submitted this piece as evidence, then perhaps this will be an example of the three extended years of this disreputable presidential term. Thank you. [end recording]

Toxic Material Found Near Environment Ministry

NC2410190695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Samir 'Awn, member of the Chamber of Deputies' environment committee, revealed in a statement today that there are 72 barrels of toxic and lethal material only 150 meters from the Ministry of Environment. He added that this toxic material was brought into the country in 1987 and 1988.

Fighting, Shelling Continue in South

'Resistance' Fighter Killed

NC2410133295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Resistance men attacked the Arnun-al-Shaqif post early today. It has been reported that a resistance fighter was killed on the Arnun-Yuhmur road.

According to security sources the body, which the Lebanese Red Cross removed this morning, belongs to a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Elsewhere, the Israeli forces in Qal'at al-Shaqif bombarded the resistance infiltrators. Israeli warplanes reconnoitered the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah skies this morning.

Israeli Tank Kills Two

NC2410210195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] said that two Resistance men were killed this evening in the area adjacent to the eastern sector of the occupied region. A source in these forces explained that an Israeli tank this afternoon spotted an armed group that was trying to infiltrate the surroundings of Shab'a town. The tank shelled the group, killing two of its members. No organization has yet announced responsibility for this operation or the killing of any of its members in the south.

This evening, the Israeli forces shelled the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, al-Jabal al-Rafi', the Nab' al-Tasah basin, the woods of Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and Jisr al-Sit Zubaydah. The shelling later expanded to include the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah and the forests of Kafr Tabnit and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. The shelling caused a number of fires.

The Islamic Resistance attacked al-Dabshah post using machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades at about 1700 today.

Ring Counterfeiting U.S. Banknotes Apprehended

NC2510082795 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 17 Oct 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have apprehended a new ring that has been counterfeiting U.S. banknotes on modern and secret presses in Brital and Hawr Ta'la [near Ba'labakk in the al-Biqa' Valley]. Five of the ring members have been arrested. They are Fahd

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M. M., 'Adnan Y. D., Husayn N. M., Hasan N. M., and Qasim M. Q. The other members of the ring have gone into hiding. They are 'Adnan Y.D., Tayfur 'A. M., Husayn M. M., 'Isam M. 'A., Mahdi T. Kh., Shadi M. M., Mustafa M. T., 'Ali M. Sh, Hamadawi M. H., Khamis M.D., Hasan 'A, H., 'Ali S. S. A., Talib M.S., and 'Isam 'A.

The detainees have been referred to the public prosecutor in Jabal Lubnan. Public Prosecutor Tarabayh Rahmah charged them with counterfeiting and referred them to First Examining Judge Fawzi Daghir.

The ring members counterfeited 20-dollar bills and circulated them in Lebanon and Arab and African countries. The amount counterfeited is estimated at $50 million.

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Embassy Move To 'Undermine' U.S. Peace Role

JN2510083295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Unjust Congressional Decision," TISHRIN says in its commentary that the U.S. Congressional implementation of the Israeli decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will greatly undermine the U.S. role in the peace process because it conflicts with the role of fair broker and neutral partner. Therefore, this approval is an attempt to jeopardize and obstruct the U.S. role, as well as an attempt to strike at U.S. credibility in the region, because recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is a blatant aggression against the rights of the Arabs and Muslims in Jerusalem.

TISHRIN asks: How did the supporters in the Congress agree on a draft bill to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem by championing the interests of a foreign state, like Israel, over U.S. national interests? Can an issue like Jerusalem be used as an election card in favor of this or that presidential candidate, or in favor of this or that party in the United States? Why does the Congress fabricate a confrontation with the U.S. Administration and use the Arab and Islamic right to Jerusalem as its fuel?

TISHRIN notes that Israel has decided the final status of the Arab and Islamic city in favor of occupation by tightening its grip on it at the expense of Arab and Islamic sanctities. This is demonstrated by Israel's annexation of the nearby settlements to the city and by considering these settlements as part of Jerusalem, which is viewed by the Israelis and their plans as the eternal united capital of Israel.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is necessary for the U.S. Administration to take all precautionary measures to prevent the implementation of the Israeli decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. By so doing, it will be proceeding from U.S. national interests, which require neutrality and call for playing the role of a broker unbiased toward aggression, injustice, and occupation.

Under the headline "The U.S. Congressional Decision Is a Danger to Peace," AL-BA'TH notes in its commentary that the Israeli decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has triumphed inside the Congress. It has been proven by the unequivocal evidence that Israel dictates its conditions, and that no conditions are dictated to it. This U.S. Congressional decision has weakened the ongoing efforts to close the file of tension and danger in the Middle East. AL-BA'TH adds that the law on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is not only a blow to peace efforts, but conflicts with the UN resolutions and recommendations which do not allow the invasion force to make any demographic, geographical, or cultural changes in the areas it occupies by force.

AL-BA'TH notes that all UN-affiliates organizations issued decisions banning Israel from exploiting its aggression. The UNESCO decisions, in particular, stipulate that Jerusalem is Arab, and that all measures taken by the Israeli occupation are void.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: If party competition over U.S. elections is behind the Congressional decision, this necessarily means that Israel controls the most delicate details and the most important issues. Thus, Israel is the party which dictates things, not the one to whom things are dictated. Consequently, how can Israel comply with the Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of the UN General Assembly when it has a privileged position and influence in the largest, strongest, and most important authority in the world?

Foreign Minister Meets Christopher, Ross

JN2410200195 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York this morning. The meeting was attended by Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process; Mark Parris, the White House's adviser for Middle East affairs; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington. Faruq al-Shar' received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, in his place of residence in New York last night. Discussion during the two meetings focused on the peace process and the obstacles Israel is placing to prevent the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Radio Reports al-Shar' Speech at UN

JN2510073195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister and head of the Syrian Arab Republic's delegation, delivered a speech at the UN General Assembly at dawn today on the occasion of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

In his speech, he said: While celebrating the 50th UN anniversary, a legitimate question is raised not about what this international organization has achieved thus

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far—in spite of the importance of these achievements—but about what we are going to do within the UN framework in order to build a better future for humanity, in which there is no room for aggression, occupation, injustice, poverty, and backwardness.

Following the end of the Cold War, the international situation continues to be in a transitional stage. No one can predict when it will be over and how it will crystallize due to the ambiguity and instability surrounding it. Al-Shar' added that this stage is a transition between a world order, whose collapse left much rubble, various wars, and essential questions, and an alternative order that is trying to emerge from under the rubble and that continues to search for a way to put out the fires spreading in many places and to answer the many unanswered questions. It is a serious mission and a grave responsibility that no country alone can shoulder, no matter how strong and wise it may be. This responsibility requires collective efforts through which the member-states contribute honestly away from the Cold War mentality and hegemonic attempts. He stressed that the United Nations is the best framework for mobilizing these efforts and contributions in face of the challenges of the present and future.

It is a mistake to believe that a new world order has been established and become a fait accompli and that the only option we have is to get in the train before it is too late. The foreign minister added: As President Hafiz al-Asad said, Syria, like many world countries will not support a world order in which it has no role or interest. This can also be concluded from the discussions that took place at the Nonaligned summit in Colombia last week. In the light of this fact, we will continue to endeavor with the developing and other nations to contribute to establishing a fair world order—an order that recognizes equality between countries and peoples and their right to dignity, freedom, and development. An order that believes in international cooperation that is based on mutual respect between countries and noninterference in their internal affairs.

Al-Shar' said: This gathering of a large number of presidents and prime ministers on the 50th anniversary reflects two important facts. The first fact is that there is an overall concern by both winners and losers concerning the results of the end of the Cold War. The second fact is that a consensus has recently been reached by the world countries on the need to reform the United Nations so that it will be more effective in facing the current and future challenges.

Improving the UN's performance and democratizing its decisionmaking will not be realized if the wealthy, powerful countries place their selfish interests above the interests of the majority of nations. In light of past practices and experiences, this trend has become a cause for real concern.

He stressed that last April's decision to renew indefinitely the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the exceptions included in that decision consolidated the monopoly of those who possess nuclear weapons. Pressure was put on those nations which do not possess them and which sincerely wish to rid humanity of nuclear weapons. He said this was the clearest evidence of the trend that emphasizes the danger of double standards and concepts prevailing in current international relations.

The foreign minister added: Since its establishment, the United Nations has played an important role in eliminating colonialism and racism, and has marked huge successes in this respect, the last of which was the brilliant achievement in South Africa. However, in our region Israel continues to occupy the Arab territories, build settlements, and sow the seeds of hatred throughout the region despite its lavish talk of peace. It is no secret that Israel does not want the United Nations, and refuses to allow it a role in establishing peace in the Middle East. Thus, the U.S. peace initiative was the only bpossible way to persuade Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 in order to realize a just, comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula.

He added: After four years of negotiations, it has become clear that Israel used the U.S. initiative first to get rid of the United Nations; secondly, to obstruct the U.S. initiative itself; and finally, to block a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Now, the Israeli Government is trying to delude the world into believing that it has established a great deal of peace and relationships in our region while the peoples of the region—both Arabs and Israelis—know that peace continues to be far-fetched. The true enemies of peace are those who annexed Jerusalem and the Golan, encouraged the continuation of occupation, settlements, and blind extremism, and who continue to refuse full withdrawal in return for full and comprehensive peace, as suggested by Syria and supported by the Arabs and the world.

The foreign minister added: If this available opportunity for peace is wasted—and we hope it will not be wasted—Israel will be held responsible before the world—a world which, on the UN's 50th anniversary, has expressed its strong eagerness in realizing a comprehensive peace based on justice and equality, and a better future for the peoples of our region and the whole world.

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London Paper Explains Boycott of Amman Summit

JN2410144695 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 23-29 Oct 95 pp 40, 41

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus differentiates between the Amman economic summit and the Barcelona summit, knowing that Israel will participate in both meetings. Damascus reaffirmed its intention to boycott the first and attend the second in light of the "essential objective" of each one and its effect on the Syrian negotiating stand, particularly since the Syrian- and Lebanese—Israeli talks have been frozen for more than three months.

Speaking to AL-WASAT, Syrian sources said Damascus was not satisfied with directing strong criticism to the Amman summit, but openly announced its decision not to attend after boycotting the Casablanca summit last year. The sources said that "both meetings are similar in terms of essence and objective; namely, bypassing the stages of the peaceful settlement." The sources added that Syria's decision not to participate is "based on the principles of the peace process in accordance with which Damascus joined the talks in 1991, as well as on the Syrian negotiating strategy over the past four years."

According to the same sources, the Syrian position is based on the following:

— The Syrians are convinced that such meetings will discuss the "fruits of peace before the tree of peace has actually grown." In other words, Arab countries are discussing economic cooperation with the Hebrew state before achieving a comprehensive peace on all tracks, including the Syrian, Lebanese, and even the Palestinian, which is being obstructed despite the signed agreements. Damascus believes this will encourage Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to stick to his rejection of withdrawal from the occupied territories, rather than have the effect of pressuring Israel to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive settlement. This is considered a reply to the American request and the view of some Arab countries that "more normalization will give Rabin more confidence to make further concessions."

— Thus, Damascus believes the economic summit will expose both Syrian and Lebanese tracks to "severe damage." A Syrian official said cooperation between Israel and any Arab country "will weaken the Syrian position in the negotiations" to achieve peace between the two sides and will give the Israeli side negotiating cards "to weaken the Syrian position."

— The meetings in the Jordanian capital, in which a large number of economists and politicians will participate, will discuss "merging the Hebrew state into the Arab world and building bridges to help it infiltrate the Arab homeland under the slogan of cooperation for the sake of peace and prosperity. The Arabs need only supply the necessary facilities to render the Israeli schemes a success."

Practically, the proposed ideas and projects, such as railroads and oil, gas, and water pipelines, consider the Hebrew state a center of polarization and a pivot "through which Arab and regional projects will pass." In addition to this, the objective of establishing the "Middle East Development Bank," which Israel insists on, serves to provide the necessary money to build these bridges and projects which will help Israel have access to the Arab homeland.

— Such meetings will contribute to establishing the "new Middle East" which Shim'on Peres has spoken about. This matter is rejected by Damascus because it refuses to place the region "under Israeli command." President Hafiz al-Asad strongly criticized such calls because they will contribute to bypassing the "Arab identity."

— The convening of the summit is a violation of the 1952 law on the Arab boycott of Israel, which bans any dealing with Israel and with the companies that deal with Israel. As long as the law has not been canceled by the Arab league, it is still valid. The summit is also considered a form of the multilateral talks which are boycotted by Damascus and Beirut because no progress has been achieved in the bilateral talks.

On the other hand, Syria agreed to attend the Barcelona conference at the end of next month, which Israel will also attend, because Damascus has a different view of this conference. It does not believe it violates the boycott law.

In a statement to AL-WASAT, a Syrian official reaffirmed his country's intention to participate in the Mediterranean conference "at the highest levels, possibly at the ministerial level." The Syrian official added that, after Syria's agreement to attend the conference, a ranking committee was formed from a number of ministries to arrange the ideas and discuss fields of cooperation.

The Syrian official noted that Damascus "has announced its agreement only after receiving assurances that the conference has nothing to do with the multilateral talks and that cooperation between the European countries and the Mediterranean states will be discussed outside the framework of the peace process." He added that the

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"European countries, as an established organization, call for promoting the relationship with the Mediterranean states and setting up partnership, joint industries, and joint cultural and environmental cooperation. The circumstances of each country define the size of partnership and the technology to be transferred to the Arab countries. This does not bind any particular country to establishing relations with Israel." He stressed that "the European side is the basis in Barcelona while in Amman Israel is the basis."

Informed sources told AL-WASAT that the Syrian negotiator seeks to maintain a certain level of relationship with the EU states in light of the unbalanced U.S. role in the peace talks. The sources added that "as long as the Europeans are excluded from the peace talks there must be a strong political and economic relationship.

Israel Seeking To 'Abort' U.S. Peace Efforts

JN2410164495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The United Nations is celebrating its 50th anniversary and presidents and figures have arrived at its headquarters to reiterate the need to reinforce its role and to enhance its power to resolve conflicts between countries, stand against acts of aggression, and achieve rights. Moreover, during this unique celebration, the international community is expressing its belief that firm peace can only be achieved on the bases of justice, fairness, and respect for principles and charters. Meanwhile, the Zionist lobby in the United States insists on reminding the world that it does not attach great importance to any of the United Nations' principles and resolutions. Indeed, it does not attach great importance to the international organization itself. Furthermore, the Zionist lobby in the United States insists on reminding the world that Israel will continue to be an exception — in which whatever applies to others does not apply to it — and that it has the right to usurp and seize the territories of others.

News agencies have reported that under pressure by the Zionist lobby, the U.S. Senate plans to hold an unexpected meeting to make a feverish decision on transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. President Clinton's warnings did not succeed in preventing the Congress from doing so. Here, it should be noted that these efforts coincide with the presence of Israel's prime minister in the United States.

One may ask: Why transfer the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem? The answer is simple. This is to indicate that Arab Jerusalem has been usurped forever; that it will not be subject for negotiations; and that the Arabs should relinquish it for good for it to become the capital of Israel. This is also to indicate that related Security Council resolutions — which reject the annexation of jerusalem, changing its features, or tampering with its history and culture — are worth nothing; that the first and final decision is in Israel's hand; and that the Zionist lobby can control U.S. decision making. Moreover, this is to indicate that while some Americans claim that the United States has pledged to play the role of a sincere and honest broker in its sponsorship of the peace process, Israel and the Zionist lobby in the United States are eager to prove that the opposite is true.

It is natural for Arabs to become frustrated. When we talk about the Arabs, we are not talking about the governments and regimes. Indeed, we are talking about the people. There are regimes that are racing to normalize relations with Israel, ignoring Israel's continued occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem. This is especially since the United States has pledged to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Until now, it did not manage to achieve any actual breakthrough in the direction of peace as a result of Israel's intransigence, prevarication, and evasion of the Security Council resolutions — which organize the peace process — and its prerequisites, that is, withdrawal from the occupied territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise the right to self-determination.

The concluded agreements have kept the occupation and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks at a standstill. Moreover, Israel is over doing it with its impossible conditions and, as usual, it is using the security pretext to obstruct the peace process. It urged the Zionist lobby in the United States to make a move in view of the approaching U.S. presidential elections campaign.

It is well known that the Zionist lobby is playing a double game and is blackmailing the Democrats and the Republicans — the two major parties in the United States — and is pushing everyone into a race toward showing extremist sympathy with Israel. The Zionist lobby seems to have convinced the Republicans to enter the race early, especially since Democrat President Clinton has committed himself to pushing the peace process forward on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Naturally, what is happening is not strange to Israel. Indeed, it is happening with Israel's knowledge and instructions. This move is more evidence that Israel is evading a just peace and is seeking to abort any effective U.S. effort to achieve a comprehensive solution.

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U.S. Urged To Apply 'Direct Pressure' on Israel

JN2510115895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Causes of Stalemate," AL-THAWRAH says in its commentary that a stalemate still prevails in the peace process. If this stalemate continues, the peace process will collapse completely and fail. AL-THAWRAH adds that the causes of the current stalemate are recognized by the world and are known by the U.S. Administration in its capacity as the broker in this process. All these causes are the result of Israel's stands and negative policies vis-a-vis genuine peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes that since the start of the peace process in Madrid, Israel has been adopting an intransigent stand based on rejecting full withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. But Israel's policy of obstruction has not stopped at this point. It has gone on to such an extent that it has ignored the main objective of the peace process. It is not dealing with the peace process on the basis from which it was launched. Israel has turned the peace process into an end in itself—just a framework in which to hold meetings between Arab and Israeli negotiators, instead of a means for a clearly defined objective; namely, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to restore all Arab rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The settlement sought by Israel is not one that will bring about a just and comprehensive peace. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' praise of the results of the Oslo-2 accord before the Knesset recently is additional evidence of Israel's responsibility for the freezing and derailing of the peace process. The Oslo accord has deprived the Palestinians of most of their rights, and achieved all Israeli ambitions. This is proof of the Israeli role in undermining peace efforts. Thus, the United States should blame Israel and apply direct pressure on it to keep its policy from obstructing the peace process.

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Afghanistan

Presidential Envoy Discusses 'Transfer of Power'

BK2410162595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Sadeq Chakari, special envoy of the Afghan president, met with Mowlawi Yunes Khales, the leader of a Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, and representatives of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement] in Jalalalbad today. According to AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS, Chakari, who is also the Afghan minister for tribal affairs, exchanged views with Mowlawi Yunes Khales and the representatives of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami on transfer of power in Kabul.

Rabbani Army Address Says Taleban Will Be Defeated

LD2410204995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], today took part in a ceremony held in Kabul to appreciate the work of commendable personnel of the Islamic army.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that esteemed president at the entrance of the Ministry of Defense inspected the guard of honor. [passage omitted]

At the start of the meeting esteemed Prof. Rabbani spoke about the country's current situation, interference in the internal affairs of our country by the Pakistani Government, and government measures to remove difficulties and problems stemming from the alien intervention. Speaking about the major gains of the Islamic army and mojahedin, esteemed Rabbani in a part of his speech said:

[Announcer-read] In relying on Almighty God's help, we fully believe that the enemies' conspiracies will be defeated by the determination of the Islamic army and our Muslim nation. The Afghans will eventually become victorious and will get rid of the difficulties.

Appreciating the pioneer commanders in here, as a matter of fact, means appreciation of the jihad's path and the Islamic revolution's martyrs, appreciation of the Muslim Afghan nation, and appreciation of all bereaved mothers and fathers who have lost their beloved ones during the jihad period and during the defense of the Islamic revolution's gains. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Rabbani then presented medals to the deserving army personnel. Esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, general head of army political affairs and acting minister of national defense, then spoke about the preparedness of the Islamic army to defeat the enemies and to defend the Islamic revolution's gains. He gave assurance to the esteemed president, the ISA's leadership, the Afghan Muslim nation, and in particular to Kabul's citizens that the army personnel, in having a high military preparedness and a strong combat morale, are ready to defend them against every conspiracy and invasion by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban. With the cooperation of the Muslim nation and with the help of Almighty God, the enemies will be defeated and a reliable peace will be restored in the country.

Mestiri Calls For End to External Interference

LD2410190895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 50th anniversary of the United Nations was marked by the faculty of law and political science in Kabul University's auditorium today. [passage omitted]

A message from Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri was read out, which said: We should now take a big step to restore peace in Afghanistan. We ask all countries involved in the Afghan problem to cease their interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We ask the international community, especially the regional countries, not to forget Afghanistan, and to continue giving the afflicted Afghan people the much needed assistance. [passage omitted]

India

U.S. Arms to Pakistan Said Causing 'Serious Concern'

BK2510033695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has expressed serious concern over the approval of sale of arms to Pakistan by a U.S. Congressional panel. The Senate Conference Committee approved the one-time waiver while adopting the Foreign Aid Bill yesterday.

Our correspondent reports from New York that the transfer of weapons is likely to trigger off the first arms race in South Asia since the end of the Cold War. It said though New Delhi does not wish to divert its scarce resources from development, this cannot be avoided now in view of the threat to our national security. India expressed its deep disappointment as its concerns were not taken into account while approving the package.

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Pakistan's Relations With U.S., Iran Viewed

BK2010153795 Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Oct 95 p 12

[Article by Pran Chopra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IF I were a Pakistani, I would be worried about the current reports of fighting in the Herat province of Afghanistan on the Iran border. The outcome of the battle is not important. Its fallout is, because it can raise two serious questions. The first is whether the present leaders of Pakistan are jeopardising their country's relations with Iran. The second is whether they are being cajoled into doing so by the new relationship which has been cultivated with them by influential policy making circles in Washington.

Most Heraties are linked with Iran by one or both of two affinities: Farsi language or the Shia faith. Therefore when Herat was captured by the Sunni fundamentalist and mostly Pushtoon force. The Taleban, which has been armed and reared by Pakistan for gaining control of Afghanistan, it was thought likely that Iran would react.

Now it seems it has. Taleban sources are reported to have said that they had lost ground to forces which came from or at least through Iran. These could have come only with some Iranian backing, and if they have captured some ground the backing would have been substantial because the Taleban, armed well already by Pakistan had earlier claimed it had captured a big arsenal when it captured Herat.

If this is a proxy clash between Iran and Pakistan in an Afghan battlefield, then it bodes ill for the domestic as well as regional policies of Pakistan, because peace between Shias and Sunnies is essential for the former and between Pakistan and Iran for the latter.

From Pakistan's point of view, it is bad enough if this clash has resulted from what Pakistan and Iran generally, even if wrongly, perceive to be a rivalry between their interests in Afghanistan. But it is much worse if the cause of the clash is that once again Pakistan, in its passion for capturing Kashmir, has placed itself at the disposal of American purposes in this part of the world, in the hope that America would reward it by helping it to wrest Kashmir from India.

Pakistan has done so before. But it has burnt its fingers each time it nag tried to pull America's chestnuts out of the fire for it. Are Pakistani leaders taking this risk again? If they are, the consequences for Pakistan will be the same again.

Throughout the Cold War period, America used its powerful influence on Pakistan in favour of military oligarchies because they fitted into the U.S.'s Cold War aims better than a democracy rooted in the realities of Pakistan would have done. The oligarchies, in turn, used the American support for them for further tightening their grip on the polity of Pakistan. Thus, whether such was its intention or not, the world's most powerful democracy became a party to the strangulation of the world's newest democracy.

While the U.S. pampered Pakistan's military dictators, the people of Pakistan discovered that they had not only failed to get Kashmir but had also lost the country's eastern wing, with the U.S. choosing to look the other way. America posed a brief threat to India with its nuclear warship, Enterprise, but it did not do more because it had understood better than Islamabad had done that long before India fired a shot, the militarists America had nurtured in West Pakistan had lost the eastern wing by brutally suppressing the vibrant democracy which had come up in least Pakistan in spite of the U.S. and its military proteges in Islamabad.

It is typical of the tragedy of Pakistan that the lesson of that misfortune was so soon forgotten, both by Pakistan and by its patrons in the Pentagon. That is how it happened that the most popular Prime Minister Pakistan has ever had, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was not only deposed but hanged by General Zia, who then moved closer to American purposes than any of his prototypes had done.

Whether some memory of that hanging disturbed Bhutto's daughter, the Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, as she was serenaded in Washington is for her to say. But the people of Pakistan know in their bones what their country has suffered as a result of being used as a "front line state" (the most relevant phrase after "the most allied ally") in America's war with the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Next only to Afghanistan, Pakistan has suffered most from the chaos spread by that war.

The root cause of this tragedy is recognised by the U.S., and for proof one turns to Ms. Bhutto's closest friend, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Ms. Robin Raphel. In explaining past complications, she told a sub-committee of the U.S. Senate on September 14: "For decades we viewed our relations with South Asian countries through the prism of our rivalry with the Soviet Union." As explained above, the prism accounts for the U.S. preference for military rulers in Pakistan throughout the Cold War. But as will be explained below, another prism is now being put in piece of the old one, and Pakistan is again being shaped into a "front line state".

In her testimony to the Senate sub-committee mentioned earlier, Ms. Raphel ignored the U.S. official reports

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(for example, "Patterns of Terrorism", 1994) and major media assessments (for example, in The Washington Post in May this year) that Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir. She also ignored the findings of American research, for example, by Paula Newberg of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace that Pakistan's greed for Kashmir is part of its fundamentalist agenda.

Instead, Ms. Raphel claimed Pakistan was America's partner in countering the war by terrorism which Americans allege is being waged by Iran. On the other hand, she said "as a moderate Islamic State, Pakistan is often seen as an alternative model to Iran in Central Asia."

Ms. Raphel refrained from going so far as the co-author of the Hank Brown Amendment, Senator Harkin, did in the full Senate on September 20, when he said that "Pakistan is the only tried and trusted friend that we have in the Islamic world." (I wonder what an Egyptian or a Saudi Muslim would make of that!). But she stretched her own point further when she said to the sub-committee that Pakistan was "an important source of moderation in the troubled part of the world where religious extremism" (an American code word for Iran) "can threaten stability in the region and beyond", an area which is now being seen through the prism of Iran. She cautioned Pakistan (and India) against "possible Iranian attempts to radicalise their Muslim populations" and added the warning that "we would not accept this rationale as justifying efforts by either India or Pakistan to improve relations with Iran."

While Pakistan denied it was backing the Taleban in Afghanistan, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, dismissed the denial as a "joke." While the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Asset Ahmed Ali, was in Teheran discussing the situation in Afghanistan, the most respected Pakistani newspaper, Dawn, reported on September 9 that Teheran had "more or less openly" accused Pakistan of being behind "the Afghan fundamentalist militia, the Taleban."

The suspicions in Teheran take further colour from notable commentaries in Pakistan, such as a recent one in Dawn by the well-known Pakistani political analyst, M.B. Naqvi, that "the Taleban and the other major pro-Pakistan Afghan group, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, have joined hands and are said to be operating more or less in tandem." It also reported that the press in Teheran had "issued a warning to Islamabad to end its support to the anti-Shia militia." Earlier also "Iran had voiced concern over a Taleban threat to the Shia community in Afghanistan."

The point about these reports is not whether they are accurate or not. The point about them is that a scenario is developing gradually in which Pakistan may be caught between the American cold and not so-cold war against Iran, and Iran's probable capacity to hit back at neighbouring countries, the foremost among them being Pakistan, which may choose to play the American game. Therefore Mr. Naqvi's advice to Pakistan is apt that it should "not get caught in the vortex of the Afghan civil war. Its resources are too puny to play imperial games — not even as a proxy of America in foolish hopes of aid that may never come."

Pakistan probably resents it that Iran is now less warm in supporting it against India on Kashmir. But it should heed the deepen meanings of the editorial Nation of Lahore wrote on April 14, "what needs to be accepted as a fait accompli is the signal that Iran will not necessarily go along with Pakistan on issues of discord in the region.... The Iranian Speaker has been candid enough to acknowledge that relations with India have assumed a special significance for his country." Pakistan should contrast that with Ms. Robin Raphel's advice against improving relations with Iran.

Rao Calls For World Community To Combat 'Terrorism'

BK2510043495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has asked the international community to resolve to combat state-sponsored terrorism as it threatens the very basis of peaceful societies. Addressing the commemorative meeting on the 50th anniversary of the UN General Assembly, he said the greatest danger facing the world today is the spread of terrorism. When sponsored and supported by states, terrorism becomes another means of waging war, Mr. Rao added.

Stressing the need for expansion of the Security Council, Mr. Rao called for adequate presence of developing countries in the council on the basis of objective criteria. He said nations of the world must feel their state in total peace and prosperity. [sentence as heard] Mr. Rao said looking back we find that successes of UN are many and an objective appraisal shows that it continues to be humankind's beacon of hope. However, he stressed the need to address the root causes of what afflicts humankind if the relevance of UN is to be continued. He enumerated these causes as presence of nuclear weapons, continuance of poverty and underdevelopment in many countries, international terrorism, and fundamentalism.

Referring to nuclear nonproliferation, Mr. Rao made a fervent appeal to the world body to take credible steps for the complete elimination of all weapons of

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mass destruction within a stipulated timeframe. He said India's action plan presented in 1988 could serve as an appropriate starting point. India, he said, looks upon it essentially as a proposal inspired by Gandhian principles and is fully committed to it.

Prime Minister Rebukes Pakistan on Kashmir Issue

BK2410160395 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 21 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Rao's Rebuke to Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan seems to have developed a habit of raising the Kashmir issue at every possible international forum. Spouting venom against India appears to be the only means left for Pakistan to divert its people's and the world's attention from its internal political turmoil, but it fails every time because Kashmir is not an international issue any more. It is an integral part of India, and by raising this issue repeatedly Pakistan not only tries to intrude unsuccessfully on the sovereign authority of a nation but even flaunts the norms of international decorum. This time again Ms Benazir Bhutto repeated her attempt to mislead the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM's) Summit Conference saying that the dispute about Kashmir has cast its adverse influence on peace and stability on the entire continent of Asia. In response to her diatribe against India, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's firm rebuttal is not only praiseworthy but also contains facts that are very true. Prime Minister Rao is correct in his assertion that there is nothing to the Kashmir dispute except that Pakistan has been illegally occupying a portion of Kashmir since 1948 which it must vacate. For, not only the merger of Jammu-Kashmir State into the Union of India is an established fact of international law, but the people of the State, by giving their mandate repeatedly over the last 48 years, have conveyed their emphatic reply to Pakistan's vain reiteration.

In this context it may be recalled that despite India's repeated proposals to start bilateral talks on an official level between the two countries, Pakistan always continues to evade the issue on one pretext or another. That it has been incessantly engineering terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir to disturb and damage public life and property has been proved by scores of irrefutable evidence. Even the United States had to admit Pakistan's complicity in fanning international terrorism. Ms Bhutto's repeated charges of human rights violations in India have been blasted by a report by Amnesty International which has copious references to the inhuman tortures being perpetrated on women in Pakistan.

No doubt the Kashmir issue has been lying unresolved and hence pending on the agenda of the United Nations for many years but for that not India but Pakistan should be blamed more. It is Pakistan which, without any valid elections has been keeping its puppet government installed in that region of Kashmir under its illegal occupation. If a plebiscite could be held under the supervision of an impartial international agency in Pakistani Occupied Kashmir the people of the region are sure to vote for establishing an independent rule there. The Pakistan Government, out of ill-will against India is refusing to accept this fact as a reality, and continues to blame India on fictitious charges. The statement by the Indian prime minister deserves close attention because the Government of India is committed to ensuring no trouble for the people of the State due to disruptive and terrorist activities being sponsored from across the border. We believe this reiteration of assurance from the Indian prime minister was enough to satisfy the members of the NAM and that is why Pakistan failed again to involve "the Movement" in the Kashmir dispute with its proposal for mediation. On the contrary, the NAM accepted the Indian proposal that such bilateral issues should not to be raised at this forum. Still it is to be watched whether Pakistan succeeds or not in having this issue included in the NAM Conference Summit Declaration. It is hoped that this Cartagena Summit Declaration, like the Djakarta Conference would confine itself to the topic mentioned in the Movement's coordinating Bureau Report only. Now the three-day Cartagena Conference has ended, and Pakistan's nefarious intentions did not bear any fruit because of its vile designs and the vast difference between what it professes and what it actually does.

Report on Canadian Prime Minister's Visit Rejected

BK2110104695 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1453 GMT 20 Oct 95

["Official Spokesman's Statement" — ISI Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attention of the government has been drawn to a media report claiming that the Government of India has conveyed its unwillingness to have the Canadian prime minister as the chief guest on Republic Day next year to signal displeasure over a demarche on the NPT [non -Proliferation Treaty] made by Ottawa. The report is irresponsible and has absolutely no factual basis. The date of the forthcoming visit of the Canadian prime minister during the first half of January 1996 is based on the specific request of the Canadian Government as the Canadian prime minister is also visiting other countries in Asia along with India.

We look forward to the visit of the Canadian prime minister which will provide a strong impetus to the present

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expansion of Indo- Canadian relations particularly in trade and investment. The Canadian prime minister will find a warm welcome in India.

New Delhi
20 October 1995

Editorial Stresses Benefits of Economic Reforms

BK1810054995 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 7 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Future of Liberal Economic Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is being speculated that incumbent Finance Minister Manmohan Singh will again become federal finance minister after the next elections, regardless of which party or alliance that comes to power. It goes without saying that this is merely a joke. Jokes sometimes have some significance, however, and it applies to this case as well.

Manmohan Singh clarified the significance of this joke himself. Addressing a symposium in Singapore, he said that the economic policy pursued by India is irreversible; he added that, whichever party comes to power, it cannot revoke the economic reform policy. This means that every government will have to pursue the policy Manmohan Singh instituted because there is no other way. Therefore, in a sense, his position as finance minister is permanent, regardless of the party that comes to power. Even if he does not become the finance minister, his ideology will continue, and his successor will inherit his policy and ideology.

What makes him so self-confident? On what basis can the finance minister claim that his policy of economic liberalism is irreversible? There is only one basis: experience. This experience has several variations. On the one hand, there is the economic development experience of independent India, or the experience of four decades of backwardness; on the other hand, there is the experience of the past four years. Alternately, we can say that, on the one hand, there is the experience of India's economic development history; while, on the other hand, there is the experience of countries like South Korea or others, which began their economic efforts under conditions similar to India's and have accomplished great economic achievements over the last four decades. There is also the history of the disaster of socialist countries.

A foregone conclusion that can be drawn from this varied and divergent experience is that no economic progress is possible when suppressing private entrepreneurship and market forces through state control. It is the state's task to support the market, to make it more dynamic and, if necessary, to faultlessly regulate it in order to achieve higher development goals. The liberal policy pursued by India over the last four years is consistent with the realization of this fact; therein lies its difference from Nehru's view of the economy.

In Nehru's view, the state was the master, and the market was subservient to it. According to the new policy, however, the market is the driving force, which is supported by the state. Depending on the circumstances, the state can, at most, act like an adviser and patron. It is not possible to achieve progress by using state power to ignore or suppress the market. This is an accepted fact, not only in this country but in all countries, and it is this fact that prompted the finance minister to believe that no party can annul the economic reform policy.

To what extent is this belief realistic? It is 100 percent true that there is no alternative to a liberal policy for ensuring economic development. Are there any guarantees, however, that political party leaders will do what is required for economic development? Different kinds of slogans were heard over the past four years against the federal government's liberal economic policy. All opposition parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the Communist Party of India-Marxist, set the government's liberal economic policy as their target of attack and made it an issue during the elections.

As the elections are drawing closer, it is feared that the tone of these slogans will become harsher; there are already strong indications of this. Therefore, can anyone say that these slogans will not be translated into policy if these parties or group of parties come to power? The Enron episode, specifically, is a good reminder in this regard. The recent Enron incident serves as an eye-opener, which exposes how politicians are driven after coming to power by the urge to implement their slogans and then lose their senses in the process. The future is definitely dark if such incidents recur on a wider scale and dimension in the future—no matter how confident Manmohan Singh might be.

The Enron incident itself, however, indicates that such apprehension may be somewhat unrealistic. There is no doubt that Manohar Joshi and Gopinath Munde, BJP leaders in Maharashtra, have only proved their dim-witted disposition by taking action against Enron. BJP leaders themselves are visibly apprehensive about the incident. In fact, leftist parties spearheading the agitation against the liberal economic policy cannot deny the inevitability of the liberal policy. A glaring evidence of this is the industrial policy of West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. The policy has also been adopted recently by Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. Therefore, one should not give undue importance to antireform slogans.

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What needs to be done is to convince the common people of the benefit and prospects of the liberal economic policy. During the last four years, Manmohan Singh's government and party could not make the people realize that the liberal policy was not antipeople, and it was the only means to ensure the lasting progress of the masses. It is not clear either whether or not the ruling party leaders have realized this fact themselves. The opposition parties aside, the ruling party itself is suffering from skepticism on this issue.

Expert Committee Formed To Study Enron Proposals

BK2110104295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra Government has set up an expert committee to go into the details of fresh proposals submitted by the American firm, Enron, for the Dabhol power plant. Talking to newspersons in Nagpur today, the deputy chief minister, Mr. Gopinath Munde, said the committee of experts will start functioning soon.

Radio on Dismissal of Electricity Board Employees

BK2310040595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Haryana, the services of over 1,000 striking employees of the State Electricity Board have been terminated under the Essential Services Maintenance Act. According to the chairman of the board, Mr. B.S. Ojha, the power supply throughout the state is normal. He said more striking employees are resuming their duties in response to the appeal by the chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal. The employees are on strike since the 18th of this month in protest against nonacceptance of their demands.

Iran

Velayati Returns From NAM, New York; Views UN

NC2510082095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to Colombia to participate in the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] conference and to New York for the ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, returned to Tehran this morning.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, Velayati said that the convening of two important international conferences— in Colombia and in New York—were of special significance, noting that while the world verged on making important decisions on the new structure of the United Nations, the NAM members were given the opportunity to discuss this restructuring. He said the common view of the NAM members was that the United Nations should emerge from its current unfavorable position and that the division of power among countries and among the world's political regions should be more fair. Also, the 113 NAM members criticized the veto power in the United Nations.

During the 50th anniversary ceremonies, Velayati commented on the major criticisms of UN operations as follows:

[Begin Velayati recording] First, the go-slow attitude and the inefficiency of the United Nations in confronting world crises that threaten world security were criticized. The fact that the United Nations faces a big, slow bureaucracy and that it has excessive expenses was criticized. The other points that were criticized was the uneven distribution of power among UN members and among the world's regions. And it is almost a general demand that the United Nations be restructured, but with more forethought than was used 50 years ago, after World War II, when this organization was actually formed. [end recording]

NAM Said Opposed to U.S.-Dominated Unipolar System

NC2110144395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11th session of the heads of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] concluded its six-day deliberations in Cartagena, Colombia. Its statement says: Now that the era of a bipolar system has ended and the world has been delivered from the danger of East-West rivalry, a unipolar world should not be allowed to emerge.

Although in the NAM statement, the implications of a unipolar system are general and ambiguous, with no reference to any particular group or country, it is evident that the signatories of this statement are referring to U.S. efforts to become the only axis in the world to dominate all countries.

This clause in the NAM statement condemns the idea of the U.S. world order, which was proclaimed after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, and indicates the opposition of 113 nonaligned countries to it. With its new world order, the United States sought to project the West, and the United States in particular, as the

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best system and sought to universalize it by stressing the values prevalent in the Western capitalist system.

The existing disarray and contradictions in the capitalist system have disproved these ideas and have proved that these systems will not fare better than the communist systems. This has thwarted the acceptance of U.S. concepts. With its opposition to the countries of the world, especially the NAM group, the universalization of Western values and U.S. domination under the U.S.-proposed world order could not get beyond the theoretical stage.

In view of the fact that the United States continues to stress the principles of the new world order and to create conditions to implement it, it is essential that the developing countries coordinate to counter act this. The NAM's emphasis on combating a unipolar system indicates these countries' recognition of this need.

Thwarting the creation of a unipolar system is considered vital for developing countries because it will influence their stances on other international issues. With the end of the Cold War and the elimination of the Eastern and Western blocs, international rivalry has evolved from East-West rivalry to competition between the industrial countries of the north and the developing countries of the south.

The northern industrial countries, which are part of the capitalist system, spearheaded by the United States, have sought to formulate international regulations and institutions in order to pave the way for their hegemony over the world. Accordingly their actions are geared more toward restricting the developing countries.

By shaping international institutions so that they can interfere in the internal affairs of countries by using the issue of human rights to reap political capital, nuclear disarmament and efforts to preserve the monopoly of nuclear powers; preventing the developing countries from gaining access to nuclear energy even for peaceful use; combating pollution through efforts to limit the industrial activity of developing countries—all these indicate a coordinated front of the industrial north against the developing countries.

The establishment of a unipolar system with a capitalist system dominated by the United States would benefit the capitalist system and harm the developing countries in all these instances. Therefore, combating the unipolar system can help obstruct the emergence and development of this trend and can give the developing countries the opportunity to participate in international relations.

U.S. Plan To Move Embassy to Jerusalem Viewed

NC2510080795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two houses in the United States have reportedly voted in favor of a bill on moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On the basis of this vote, the U.S. Embassy in occupied Palestine is to be moved in May 1999—four years—to Jerusalem.

The setting of a four-year timeframe is because of various considerations, namely domestic and foreign issues in occupied Palestine. Of course, officials in Washington have already started to worry about the consequences of this decision. However, the excitement of the election campaign has made them adopt it anyway. However, some Republican Party officials have used the pro-Zionist press to endorse the occupation of Jerusalem, ignoring U.S. national interests.

The vote in favor of the bill on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is tantamount to ignoring the efforts which the United States has been exerting during the past two years to improve its image. This bill also means that the United States has ignored public opinion and the demands of 1 billion Muslims and 53 Islamic countries and has surrendered to the illegal demands of a few million Zionists.

Naturally, the Palestinians in occupied Palestine will regard the United States and its political system more pessimistically and consider their participation in the compromise talks as that of elements working toward the Zionist regime's domination over their usurped territory.

At any rate, in a wrong calculation, the United States has implicitly endorsed the occupation of Jerusalem and has destroyed the grounds for its economic and trade relations with Islamic countries and made the world of Islam more sensitive toward its efforts in the region. Under such conditions, even some of the reactionary regimes cannot continue their overt cooperation with the United States — including astronomic arms purchases and joint military exercises. Obviously, the overt endorsement of the occupation of Jerusalem will also mean dissatisfaction and rage among the armed forces of the Arab countries. It will make them more prepared to react to U.S. military presence in this region and others, especially when in its recent forecast, the Pentagon endorsed the allocation of a $2-billion loan for military assistance to Tel Aviv.

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Bosnian Envoy Comments on Relations in Interview

NC2510085395 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Oct 95 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Omar Behman, ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [RESALAT] How do you view the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the crisis in that country?

[Behman] We are confident that politically the country is on the road to stability. Many have officially recognized our country; but more important than anything else is our determination. We should strengthen our armed forces with the help of the Croatian armed forces, as our future is closely connected to the Croats. However there are many in Croatia who are opposed to this union of the two countries. If we can be strong, this union will last.

[RESALAT] The past has shown that the Croats have not been very good friends of the Bosnians and have on occasion dissolved their coalition with them. In the future, Mostar and Bihac are likely centers of renewed crises where the Muslims and Croats will become embroiled in ethnic strife. In these two cities, the Croats are either in the majority or constitute a sizeable part of the population. What is your opinion? The Serbs might even foment trouble between you and the Croats.

[Behman] I do not say that the Serbs cannot do anything; they can. But currently everything is in the hands of the Croats and depends on whether they wish for our union to continue or not. In the not too distant past, the Croats were our friends; and they still are. The Serbs cannot disrupt this friendship, except for the Serbs living among the Croats. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] What do you think of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran? In the course of the Bosnian crisis, what effect has the Iranian Muslims' sentiments had on Bosnia-Herzegovina? And how do you view the future of your relations with Iran?

[Behman] We are friends and brothers of the Iranian people. We should forge closer relations when the war ends. However, I do not believe that the war will end very soon. When we do reach that point, closeness with our Iranian brothers will be our priority.

In the past, the Persian language was popular in our country, along with other languages such as Turkish. Even some school children know Persian. We have numerous books in Persian in our libraries. My grandfather knew many verses by Hafez, Khayyam etc. and he used to quote them... [ellipsis as published]

We had a wonderful industrial, technological infrastructure, but due to the war, most of these capabilities have been destroyed and engineers and technicians have fled the country. There are possibilities for reconstruction and most of the destruction can be repaired.

[RESALAT] How do you view the future of your relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran during the reconstruction period?

[Behman] Many of our economic and industrial departments and affiliated companies are eager to forge relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, we have suffered immense losses during the war. We welcome constructive cooperation with your economic and industrial companies. We can embark on joint investment, and our presence at the 21st Tehran international fair is evidence of our wishes. Our delegation at the fair is headed by our industries minister and 12 of our companies are also here. The minister has signed some economic protocols [preceding word in English] with some Iranian officials during his meeting.

Interior Minister, Yemeni Ambassador Discuss Ties

LD2210210395 Tehran IRNA in English 2038 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — Iranian minister of the interior, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here on Sunday [21 October] emphasized the importance of expanding relations with the Islamic states.

In a meeting with Yemeni ambassador to Tehran, 'Abdaullah Muhammad al-Razi, Besharati said that the promotion of relations with the Muslim nations is the criterion of Iranian diplomacy.

Besharati expressed his joy over the unification of the two Yemens and the preservation of its territorial integrity. He added that Iran was among the first countries to recognize the unification in 1990 and the nation expressed its happiness seeing the end of the civil war and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen was formed in May 1990 by the unification of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Iranian interior minister said the Islamic governments should take practical steps to strengthen unity in the world of Islam.

He pointed to Iranian experience in reconstruction, campaign against drug trafficking and smuggling of goods into and out of Iran by sealing off its borders. He voiced Iranian readiness to cooperate with Yemen in matters of mutual interest.

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Al-Razi appreciated Iranian principled stance towards the developments in Yemen and called for Tehran's assistance in the reconstruction projects of the areas destroyed during the civil war before 1990 unification.

Yemeni ambassador pointed out the historical bonds between Tehran and Sanaa and stressed the necessity for promoting closer ties between the two nations.

"We need the Iranian experience in providing civilians defense training, system to protect urban areas, fighting drug trafficking, arranging technical and vocational training for persons in different fields", he said.

Besharati invited his Yemeni counterpart to visit Tehran.

Russian Official To Discuss Caspian Sea Issues

LD2310105195 Tehran IRNA in English
0943 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 23 (IRNA) — Russian Deputy Premier Aleksey Bolshakov will arrive in Tehran on Tuesday October 24, to discuss the Caspian Sea legal regime and other matters of mutual interest with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said a foreign ministry official.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, Velayati's Deputy for Education and Research Abbas Maleki added that pursuant to a meeting of parliamentary representatives of five littoral states of the Caspian Sea, held on October 20 at Mahach Ghaleh, the capital of the Dagestan Republic, regarding the legislature covering jurisdiction over the Caspian Sea, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Cherishov [name as received] has prepared a draft convention plus three agreements which will be discussed in Tehran during Bolshakov's forthcoming visit.

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan comprise the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Russia has proposed that each Caspian Sea littoral state should be allocated 10 miles of marine territory exclusively for seabed mineral exploration and another 20 miles territory for fishing, he said.

Concerning exploration of the free seas beyond these designated limits, a board composed of the representatives of the littoral states will issue the necessary permits for fishery, mineral exploration and oil drilling, Maleki underlined.

Meanwhile, he pointed out that shipping rights have been guaranteed for all the concerned states and a copy of the draft convention and side agreements have been delivered to all the littoral countries.

He reiterated that one of the problems raised at the 4-day forum foundation meeting held on October 13 in Malta, was the extensive contamination of the environment of the Caspian Sea and its surrounding shores.

According to current statistics, the rate of pollution at the Azerbaijan seashore is 16 times the prescribed international limit, he said, adding "pollution on the Russian and Kazakhstan shores is 4 times the international standards while Iran's coastline complies with that requirement."

International organizations have become concerned over the high pollution rate in that landlocked sea and are alarmed at the advance of contamination towards Iranian shores, IRAN NEWS quoted Maleki as saying.

Commenting on the results of the second o meeting in Moscow two weeks ago, Maleki said, "among other issues it was agreed to hold an international oil and gas seminar in Tehran on December 10 and 11 in cooperation with Iran's petroleum ministry."

"Oil ministers of the Caspian Sea states and a number of oil analysts from different countries such as England, France, India, Pakistan, China, Germany and the United States, will participate in this seminar," he divulged.

He also underlined, "our relations with Russia are excellent, but our potential for economic ties is much higher."

The two countries can have productive collaboration in military and civil fields as well, Maleki continued.

"In the industrial sector, we can have favorable cooperation with Russia as this country has a vast market for Iranian products but our private sector has not been very active in this field," he remarked.

Although Iran's views regarding the Chechen crisis differ with Russia, the two countries have a common stance on Tajikistan and the Caspian Sea, he said, emphasizing "however, our differences are not so wide as to make us stand against each other face to face."

Russian Official Cited on Caspian Sea Area Ties

LD2310115995 Tehran IRNA in English
1010 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA — Russia is seeking closer cooperation with the Caspian Sea littoral states, foreign affairs assembly chairman of the Russian Federation, Vladimir N. Podoprigora said in a recent interview with IRAN NEWS daily.

He divulged that the situation in the Caspian Sea was discussed in a meeting held at Mahach Ghaleh in the Autonomous Republic of Dagestan, with the participation of parliamentary representatives from Iran and Russia.

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The Russian official expressed satisfaction over relations between Russia and Iran, adding that Russia is seeking the expansion of bilateral ties, particularly in commerce, with the Islamic Republic.

Once the monetary problem between the two countries is solved, bilateral links will be further strengthened, he remarked.

Concerning Clinton's meeting with Yeltsin, Podoprigora stated: "One of the points raised at the meeting was the nuclear cooperation deal and our relations with Iran. But as we have repeatedly stressed, Russia does not see any problems in such cooperation. Iran's atomic plant is designed for peaceful, rather than military, purposes."

As to Russia's membership in the European Union, the official said: "This involves political and economic considerations. From a political standpoint, as long as Russia is involved in the Chechen war, the question is moot. However, we have designed a provisional agreement with the European Union, which promises bright prospects for Russia."

Podoprigora noted that democratic conditions have been established in Russia and the forthcoming elections, wherein the Council of the Russian Federation will be formed, will have decisive effects on the country.

Oil Company Chief Comments on National Revenues

LD2410101895 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA — A senior official from the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) here Monday [23 October] stressed that the country's revenues from oil have amounted to dlrs. 7.6 billion in the first half of the current Iranian year (beginning 21 March 95).

Director of the Foreign Relations Department of the NIOC Hojjatollah Ghanimifard added that the amount was some dlrs. 917 million more than what has been projected for this period.

He told IRNA that exports of crude fetched some dlrs. 7.1 billion and the sale of oil products brought around dlrs. 513 million for the country in the initial six months, representing 10.7 and 81.5 percent increases, respectively, in the expected budget for the said period of the current year.

Any future prediction in foreign currency revenues will be based on the situation of the international market and the present trend does not indicate any special increase in the oil price, the official underlined.

Referring to the impact of international economic growth as well as economic developments in Europe and Southeastern Asian countries on the future of the oil market, Ghanimifard criticized the oil supply increases made by non-OPEC states which could be an element in the weakening of oil prices.

Commenting on the technical and engineering services rendered by the Iranian Petroleum Ministry to foreign countries, he stated that the ministry has reached agreements to participate in different activities including drilling, exploration of oil and seismological studies in Africa and in some Caspian Sea littoral states.

He also divulged that a number of accords between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some foreign countries pertained to various fields of oil and gas installations and also in the area of petrochemicals.

As to the discussions held by Iran and South Africa on the storage of Iranian crude in that country, he reiterated that following the formation of the new government in South Africa, the primary agreements have been finalized by the two states.

Commenting on Iran's stance over the determination of the Caspian Sea legal regime, Ghanimifard said all the regional states are willing to ascertain the sea's regime and they believe that any kind of technical, industrial and trade activities will be done only within the framework of a legitimate legal regime.

Further on Official's Remarks

LD2310182595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's oil income during the first half of the current year [ending 21 March 1996] was $7.613 billion, which was $917 million more than forecast in the country's budget.

In an interview with an IRNA reporter, Mr. Ghanimifard, head of the international affairs department of the National Iranian Oil Company, said: The export of crude oil has generated an income of $7.1 billion, while the country has also earned $513 million from the sale of petroleum-related products. These earnings were respectively 10.7 and 81.5 percent higher than forecast in the budget.

He added: If no major setback occurs by the end of the current year, the Oil Ministry will have no problem in earning the amount of foreign currency stipulated by the budget, and will also be able to generate some surplus income.

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Referring to the procedure for transferring the Oil Ministry's technical and engineering services to other countries, he said: At present, the ministry has reached certain agreements to carry out drilling, exploration, and seismography in Africa and a number of Caspian Sea littoral states.

Furthermore, he added, there are grounds for cooperation with foreign countries in the fields of engineering and the supply of installations needed by the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries. He said that a number of agreements concerning these areas have been signed with some countries.

Oil Minister on Consumption of Petroleum Products

LD2410135095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the implementation of a policy to economize in the use of petroleum-related products, the consumption of these products has fallen in Iran at a rate of 100,000 barrels per day; and an additional income of $300 million has been gained just through the export of that quantity of oil during the first six months of the current year [beginning 21 March 1995].

According to Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, oil minister, the consumption of energy in Iran increased at an average annual rate of of six percent during the implementation of the first [social-economic] development plan. However, as a result of the implementation of the policy of economizing in the use of petrc'eum- related products, the growth in consumption of petroleum-related products stopped during the first six months of the current year. The consumption of these products has fallen by 100,000 barrels per day compared to the same period last year and based on the previous estimate [as heard].

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i added that at present the supply of petroleum- related products in the country is at its best since after the revolution and it is possible to offer them in great quantities.

Appreciating the people's cooperation in economizing in the use of energy, he expressed the hope that the targets set in the second development plan on improving the use of energy in the country will be achieved by implementing scientific methods to improve the use of energy in the factories and in transport vehicles.

Radio Reports on Efforts To Counter Protests

NC2410212995 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Monday [23 October] morning a group of mercenaries of the Law Enforcement force of the Khomeyni regime staged a repressive exhibition in Eslamabad named "Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice," in order to combat growing social protests. This so-called maneuver [preceding word in English] was staged at the Eslamabad Law Enforcement base in an effort to counter popular discontent. At this gathering it was announced that legal action will be taken against those persons who, according to the regime's agents, disrupt public law and order.

Daily Addresses Militant Clerics, Majles Elections

NC2410105595 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Oct 95 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified caller] The Militant Clerics Association [MCA] should not respond positively to the various provocations aimed at getting it to submit a candidate list for the fifth Majles elections. They just want to whip up excitement over the elections and, as the adage goes, to make hay while the sun shines. And they just want to use the MCA for this purpose and so no one can say that they (the rightist faction) won in a race in which they were the only contestants!! Participation will only be appropriate if the various accepted groups can participate in the elections in a healthy atmosphere and if the people are not subtly influenced by radio and television to vote for a particular faction. Anyway, the rightist faction owes you an apology for the fourth Majles elections.

[SALAM] Just as this dear reader says, we believe the MCA should not be provoked by such messages or allow such issues to influence its decisions. We believe that the MCA—and any other group—should participate in the elections if it considers the conditions favorable. Of course, a number of MCA supporters are apparently insisting that it hand in a list of candidates for deputy. Some of these supporters even foresee the MCA candidates scoring a considerable success. But apparently the MCA continues to have its reasons for not submitting such a list; and apparently the MCA's reasons go beyond the question of winning or losing—which some people are portraying as the major reason. The MCA probably believes that if the faulty ways of conducting elections and other political activities are not corrected, it does not wish to participate. Such tactics are

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being used by some individuals and groups to achieve victory and to gain power. [passage omitted]

Daily Explains 'Incidents' at Tehran University

NC2510101095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the publication of a statement by the Islamic Society of Students of Tehran University's Technical Department in relation to a lecture by Dr. Sorush, one of the members of Ansar-e Hezbollah who was referred to in that statement has sent a letter of explanation to our office. It states:

To the esteemed newspaper SALAM:

In the statement issued by the Islamic Society of Tehran University's Technical Department and published in your newspaper on Saturday 22 Mehr [14 October] on page two, the facts were distorted and I was referred to as one of the assailants. Therefore, I wish to give you my explanation. Your publishing this in full will clarify the facts and will also be in conformity with the press law. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The distorted and false account by the author of the statement of events on Wednesday [11 October] was surprising and regrettable. This statement gave the impression that a strike group of assailants attacked the premises in order to prevent an academic lecture and that they started beating everybody up, destroying everything in sight, and aiming insults and vulgarities at everyone present.

I do not want to go into the ideological and political aspects of the issue and will only state exactly what happened so that the facts will be clarified and people can see how incidents that took place in front of the eyes of several hundred people were spitefully distorted. I also want to show how some people who pay lip service to Islam resort to the dictum "the end justifies the means" and lie blatantly when accusing the Ansar-e Hezbollah and the other students who supported them. Obviously these brothers, who still have scars from their many years of jihad, will also speak up for themselves.

As for what happened: The organizers of the lecture, who claim to support freedom of thought and speech and a healthy cultural atmosphere, formed a security cordon with the help of the university law enforcement units and did not allow people who looked religious or suspicious (!!) to enter the university amphitheater, let alone the hall. At first they demanded to see a student card, and when I and many other students did present our student cards, they still prevented us from entering.

From the very start it was clear that some of the organizers of the lecture were seeking to create tension in a bid to exploit this situation for political means. The law enforcement units and the organizers of the lecture, who only allowed the people they wanted to enter the hall, encountered protests from a number of people, especially when the door guards not only were insensitive toward sisters who were not fully Islamic in their attire and toward some who were not students or who were not Islamic in appearance, but they even allowed them to enter without asking to see their student cards. This was what first sparked off the tension.

The second element was the harsh approach by the organizers of the lecture toward a gathering of brothers and sisters who demanded that Dr. Sorush answer some questions that they wanted to put to him in view of his political suggestions and lectures abroad, the fact that in each and every one of his articles or speeches he has distorted or questioned some of the people's religious and revolutionary values, and the fact that the era when one-sided lectures were permitted at the university has ended. A university is not a place for one-sided discussions. It is a place for questions and answers and debate, but Mr. Sorush allows only those who praise him and support him to speak. If he does not want to debate his opponents, he should at least answer the questions that we students put to him. But unfortunately, this demand was apparently appraised as being tantamount to fascism, because it was after this that those who sought a debate were called fascists and the door to the hall was violently slammed in their faces. As Mr. Sorush was entering the hall, dozens of people encircled him, asked him for clear answers, and demanded that—at least for a short while—the floor be given to the opposing students so that they would have an opportunity to state their criticism. In reply, he grinned and resorted to derogatory remarks because he apparently regarded this demand as a tough investigation and as an infringement on freedom.

It was at this point that chants of "debate, debate" were begun. Four students who were able to get past the second guard post and to enter the hall with Dr. Sorush continued to voice their views. Upon Dr. Sorush's entry, dozens of people in the audience started to applaud and to whistle; and when one of the Muslim students protested, he and the four other students were attacked by the organizers of the event, who insulted and kicked them and threw them out of the hall.

This is what started the clashes. It was after this that dozens of students, including combatant students, started to shout "debate, debate" and in the midst of this, the Ansar-e Hezbollah brothers also congregated there. The situation worsened when the students who were calling for a debate were beaten up. The sound of applause and of whistles—coming during the mourning

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period for the Prophet's daughter Zahra—and the chants of "death to fascism" made things worse. It was then that a group of protesters started to shout "God is great" and "death to the anti-Velayat-e Faqih [the supreme leader]" and entered the hall.

Therefore, this assault was not in any way premeditated. I was merely one of the students who criticized the duplicity and the politicking of Mr. Sorush. I did not do anything to upset the gathering, but was myself a target of harassment and insults. Therefore, the terms "assailants" and "one of the leaders of the assailants" are nothing but outright lies. I started calling on the audience to calm down, with the intention of putting an end to the clashes. There is a recording of my remarks that utterly disproves the lies disseminated by the author of the statement. We even agreed to be silent and ensure that order was observed so that Dr. Sorush could speak, provided that he answer the questions put to him by the students. We then said that we were ready to leave the hall so that he could say what he had to say in a calm atmosphere, but that this would be his last one-sided lecture because the era of demagoguery—especially at the university—has ended.

Then someone named Fateh, who was one of the organizers, said that now that calm had returned, Mr. Sorush would speak. The atmosphere calmed down, and the program started. But there was no sign of the great Martin Luther [apparently referring to Dr. Sorush]. He was nowhere in sight, and the meeting was declared over, to the surprise of all those present.

SALAM: SALAM's reports on the incidents at the Technical Department described what our correspondent saw. He too was hit several times in the clashes between the two sides. All our efforts have been directed at reflecting only the truth and trying to avoid taking sides. Now, if some people cannot accept the consequences of their acts, that is another issue.

At any rate, what is certain is that the Ansar-e Hezbollah brothers had stated a week before Dr. Sorush's planned lecture that they would no longer allow him to speak. Therefore, even though they themselves say that they did not intend to prevent Dr. Sorush's lecture on Wednesday, we feel that they are mostly to blame for the incidents, even if our correspondent had not been there to ascertain that this is so.

What we want to tell these brothers of ours is: Since you stress that you wanted to have a debate with Dr. Sorush, why did you not organize a counter-lecture to state your views and let the people judge for themselves and also spare society the sight of such bitter and uncultured incidents?

Authorities Reportedly Suspend Paper Publication

NC2410075095 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 23 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have suspended publication of the provincial daily TUS which is close to Islamic hardliners, accusing it of defamation, media sources said here Monday [23 October].

The daily, which was published in the holy city of Mashhad in the northeast of Iran and had proved popular with readers, was stopped from publishing in the past few days for breaking press laws.

However, the editor Mohammad Sadeq Javadi-Hesar told SALAM, another paper also close to the conservatives, that he "had not been informed of the exact charges" against TUS.

The Paris-based international media watchdog Reporters Sans Frontieres on Monday protested the paper's suspension in a letter to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a copy of which was sent to AFP.

Five papers have now been banned in Iran since the start of the year, the group said, urging Hashemi-Rafsanjani "to use his influence to lift the ban."

In July Iranian authorities suspended the weekly Payam-e- Daneshju, after it carried a series of reports on financial corruption among the country's leaders.

Rowhani on Army's Role Against 'Global Arrogance'

LD2310161895 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA — Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani said here on Monday [23 October] the army is on the frontline of struggle against the global arrogance and satanic powers.

Speaking in a meeting attended by clerics in charge of the idealogical and political departments of the army, he said the Iranian army used to act as a gendarme of the region in the past, but, today, it is now the firerunner [as received] in the struggle against colonialism and a source of hope for the oppressed nations.

He described the role of the army in the course of eight years of Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) as very significant and vital and added that the amry worked miracles in many operations launched on ground, in the air or at the sea.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani said, "The threats posed by the enemies is due to our commitment to Islam, faith

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in Islam and resistance. we, the clerics, will convey morality to the next generation."

He said the clerics set a bright record during the imposed war by offering 3,000 martyrs to Islam and the Islamic revolution and thus successfully passing their great divine examinations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani who is also the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said the idealogical and political offices of the army have played a key role in restructuring the army following the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

In reconstruction era, the idealogical and political offices of the army should work for promotion of relationship between the army and people, he said.

Rowhani said before the Islamic revolution, the theory of less independence and more security used to prevail in the country but today, "the goal is full independence and we should pay a lot for security."

President Arrives in Khuzestan To Open Dam

LD2110100995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0345 GMT on 21 October carries in its 45-minute "Work and Life" program a report on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arriving in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan to inaugurate the Karkheh dam.

The reports says Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in the town of Dezful on the morning of 21 October; he will be inaugurating the Karkheh dam, built by the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps over the Karkheh River, later today.

The dam, which is described as "one of the biggest" in Iran, is situated 20 km north of the city of Andimeshk and is capable of producing 934 million kilowatts per hour of electricity annually.

President Visits Dezful To Inspect Projects

LD2110115995 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dezful, Khuzestan Prov., Oct. 21, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived Saturday [21 October] morning in Dezful airbase to inspect a huge dam project over the river. He was welcomed by provincial officials.

The president, during his one day stay in Dezful, is expected to visit installations of the Karoun agro-industry complex.

The ministers of economic and finance, energy, agriculture and information as well as the head of plan and budget organization, the central bank governor and the commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps are accompanying the president.

Daily Reports on FDI Chief's Views on Production

95LA0347A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Sector - In allocating hard currency, the Central Bank must give priority to exporting production units in relation to other units, and must carry out matters relating to expansion of their hard currency credits in a shorter amount of time.

While commenting on this point in a discussion with RESALAT's Economic Reporter, Engineer Mohammad Mehdi Parsapour, Director General of the Ministry of Industries' Food and Drug Industries [Sanaye'e Qaza'i va Daru'i, FDI], added: in this regard, other organizations, such as Customs and banks, must also give priority to the exporting producers for all type of services.

The Commerce Ministry's FDI Director General cited the government's new policy for stabilizing the exchange rate as an effective factor in increasing production, and said: if stable conditions are brought about for producers to acquire raw materials, set a selling price for their goods and export them, the possibility comes into being for units' long-term planning for expanding production.

Allocation of Hard Currency for Producing Basic Goods

While explaining that units producing basic goods have been allocated hard currency in the form of a floating rate, by taking into account their production rate and plans for their expansion, he [Engineer Parsapour] also said: in the current year, the hard currency allocated for production of detergent, vegetable oil, sugar and lump sugar, flour and hygienic soap totals approximately 290 million dollars, approximately 100 million dollars of which by now has been absorbed by production units.

Engineer Parsapour, with reference to the fact that, "it had been estimated that hard currency needed for producing other Food and Drug Industries sector goods that were not producing basic goods was more than 400 million dollars," said: of this amount, only 200 million dollars export hard currency, at the price of 3 thousand rials to the dollar, was placed at the disposal of the Industries Ministry, this number based on production and hard currency usage capacity [zarfiyat-e tolid va arzbari]. Units were prioritized with regard to their goods being consumer and export goods, and this figure was distributed among production units.

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Production of Basic Goods in the Current Year

Explaining that, "the production rate for laundry powder in the first four months of this year shows an approximately 21 percent growth in relation to the same period last year," Engineer Parsapour added: during this period in the current year, 70,300 tons of types of laundry powders have been produced in the country.

Engineer Parsapour said: with reference to there being much unused capacity for laundry powder production in the country, in the current year it had been anticipated that production units temporarily import their needed raw materials, using hard currency obtained from exports, and produce and export at full capacity. At present this matter has not reached fulfillment, but discussions have been undertaken with the Commerce Ministry such that production units, after fulfilling their production obligations for domestic markets, can export their surplus production. The Industries Ministry's FDI Director General stated: in the current year, a new unit named Paknam is coming into operation, with an initial yearly production capacity of 80 thousand tons of types of laundry powder. With operation of this new production unit, the capacity for production of powder in excess of the country's needs will reach approximately 150 thousand tons per year.

In favorably describing the situation of vegetable oil for supply to the country's couponing system [sistem-e kuponi va ta'adoli], he said: all vegetable oil production units, in the event that they do not have remaining obligations for vegetable oil production and distribution in the couponing system, can use the "temporary import" procedure [ravesh-e "vorud-e movaqqat"] to import raw oil and export their output.

The Industries Ministry's FDI Director General cited a 27.2 percent growth rate for vegetable oil production in the four months of the present year in relation to the same period last year, and stated: during the four months of this year, approximately 236 thousand tons of vegetable oil were produced in the country, this number being 175 thousand tons during this period for the previous year.

Concerning exports [as published] of raw oil needed by production units, Engineer Parsapour stated: in the current year it is arranged that 850 thousand tons of raw oil be imported by the Commerce Ministry, this amount meeting the needs of domestic production units.

He added: in the current year, two expansion plans for vegetable oil production factories will be put into operation, which will cause an increase in the country's vegetable oil production capacity to a yearly rate of 150 to 200 thousand tons.

The Industries Ministry's FDI Director General stated: this year, barring the appearance of problems in the import of raw oil and packing materials, at least 850 to 900 thousand tons of vegetable oil will be produced in the country.

With reference to the current year's favorable climate conditions, Engineer Parsapour said: this year it is anticipated that approximately 6 million tons of sugar beet will be gathered, from which production of approximately 1 million tons of sugar is forecast. In addition, with the import of approximately 500 thousand tons of sugar by the Commerce Ministry, the domestic needs for lump sugar and sugar will be completely met for the current year.

While stating that, "in the current year, 20 million dollars hard currency at the floating rate has been allocated for production of hygienic soap [sabun-e behdashti], this number being insufficient for this sector's needs," Engineer Parsapour also said: in the current year, the production schedule for hygienic soap had been set for 50 thousand tons. With the reduction in the rate of hard currency received, this number decreases to 25 thousand tons.

Price Comparisons Over 2 Consecutive Weeks Listed

95LA0341B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jul 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—In the week ending 19/04/1374 [10 July 1995], the sale price of 30 items increased and 27 other items decreased. At the same time, the sale price of 58 other items remained unchanged.**

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, during the period mentioned, various kinds of health products, chicken, eggs, cucumbers, and cantaloupes were among the items that increased in price, and various kinds of ironware, household appliances, and legumes were among the items that decreased in price.

Based on this report, the price of various kinds of galvanized sheet metal, oil, and plain iron rods, natural gas tanks, aluminum framing strips, textiles, fruit, vegetables, and meat did not change in those weeks.

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Sale Price of 115 Items Compared in Two Consecutive Weeks

Kind of Goods	Week Ending on 12/04/74 [3 July 1995]	Week Ending on 19/04/1374 [10 July 1995]	Changes
Flour (per kg)	400-600 [rials]	400-600 [rials]	0
Chicken (per kg)	3,800-4,100	4,200-4,400	+300 and +400
Eggs (per carton)	2,800-3,200	3,200-3,600	+400 and +400
Domestic tea, 500 grams (per package)	2,100	2,100	0
Domestic cheese (various kinds)	5,200-7,500	5,500-7,500	0and +300
Mixed mutton	7,500-8,500	7,500-8,500	0
Beef	9,000-9,500	9,000-9,500	0
Sausage	6,000-8,000	6,000-8,000	0
Lunch meat (per kg)	6,000-8,000	6,000-8,000	0
Kidney beans (per kg)	3,800-4,500	3,700-4,500	0 and -100
Red beans (per kg)	3,000-3,200	3,000-3,200	0
Split peas	4,500-5,500	4,300-5,500	0 and -200
Chickpeas	4,300-5,000	4,200-5,000	0 and -100
Lentils	2,700-3,500	2,500-3,500	0 and -200
Various kinds of imported rice (per kg)	2,600-4,000	2,600-4,000	0
Various kinds of domestic rice (per kg)	5,000-6,500	4,300-6,300	-200 and -700
Macaroni (per kg)	900-1,100	900-1,100	0
Potatoes (per kg)	500-800	500-800	0
Onions (per kg)	250-400	250-400	0
Carrots (per kg)	300-500	300-500	0
Cucumbers (per kg)	450-600	500-800	+200 and +50
Tomatoes (per kg)	400-500	400-500	0
Green herbs (per kg)	300-500	300-500	0
Lettuce (per kg)	300-600	300-600	0
Eggplants (per kg)	650-800	650-800	0
Zucchini (per kg)	350-600	400-600	0 and +50
Watermelon (per kg)	350-500	350-500	0
Cantaloupe (per kg)	450-700	600-1,000	+300 and +150
Powdered detergent, half kg	900-1,200	900-1,200	0
Dish-washing liquid	1,000	1,000-1,200	+200 and 0
Domestic toothpaste, 80 grams	950	850-1,200	+250 and 100
Tissues, 100 sheets	1,000-1,200	1,000	-100 and 0

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Kind of Goods	Week Ending on 12/04/74 [3 July 1995]	Week Ending on 19/04/1374 [10 July 1995]	Changes
Various kinds of industrial soaps (per cake)	450-500	470-500	0 and +20
Shampoo, 200 grams (per unit)	950	950	0
Disposable diapers (per package)	3,900-4,300	4,500-4,950	+650 and +600
Sanitary napkins (per package)	1,500	1,500-1,850	+350 and 0
Insecticide spray (per unit)	3,200-4,000	3,400-4,800	+800 and +200
Ball-point pens (per unit)	180-200	190-200	0 and +10
Lead pencil	200-250	200	-50 and 0
Red pencil	300	250-300	0 and -50
Pencil sharpener	500-700	350-600	-100 and -150
Eraser (various kinds)	100-200	200-250	+50 and +200
100-Sheet plain notebook	1,400-1,500	1,200-1,400	-100 and -200
40-Sheet notebook	900-1,000	800-1,000	0 and -100
70-Gram printing paper (per kg)	4,800-5,900	4,800-5,900	0
Chintz (per meter)	2,000-2,200	2,000-2,200	0
Various kinds of serge (per meter)	15,000 and 38,000	15,000 and 38,000	0
Women's dress fabric (per meter)	6,000 and 28,000	6,000 and 28,000	0
Tetron [as published] (per meter)	5,000 and 5,500	5,000 and 5,500	0
Longcloth, 90 wide (per meter)	1,800-2,000	1,800-2,000	0
School uniform fabric (per meter)	7,000-12,000	7,000-12,000	0
Curtain material (per meter)	4,500-12,000	4,500-12,000	0
Various kinds of sheeting material	2,500-7,000	2,500-7,000	0
Black chador material (per meter)	5,000-13,000	5,000-13,000	0
560 X 13 Peykan tires (per unit)	90,000-130,000	100,000-130,000	0 and +10,000
750 X 16 pickup truck tires (per unit)	200,000-250,000	200,000-275,000	+25,000 and 0
650 X 16 minibus tires (per unit)	165,000-250,000	150,000-200,000	0 and -15,000 [as published]
11 X 20 truck tires (per unit)	650,000-750,000	600,000-750,000	0 and -50,000
12 X 20 truck tires (per unit)	700,000-850,000	650,000-800,000	-50,000 and -50,000
12 X 24 truck tires (per unit)	750,000-1 million	750,000-1 million	0
1,000 X 20 bus and truck tires (per unit)	600,000-750,000	600,000-750,000	0
Honda motorcycle tires	26,000-47,000	26,000-47,000	0 and 0
Various types of bicycle tires	12,500-12,700	12,600-12,900	+200 and +100

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Kind of Goods	Week Ending on 12/04/74 [3 July 1995]	Week Ending on 19/04/1374 [10 July 1995]	Changes
12-volt car batteries (per unit)	38,250	38,250	0
Break fluid, small container	5,300-5,500	5,300-5,500	0
Front brake shoes for Peykan sedan	4,800-5,000	6,300-6,500	+1,500 and +1,500
Iranian spark plugs (per unit)	2,700-2,900	2,700-2,900	0
Motor oil (per liter)	1,500	1,500	0
Peykan clutch disc and plate (per set)	265,000-315,000	265,000-315,000	0
Peykan windshield	150,000-160,000	150,000-160,000	0
Imported Peykan points	4,800-5,500	4,500-5,000	-500 and -300
Peykan	40,000-50,000	40,000-50,000	0
Oil filter	5,400-5,800	5,400-5,800	0
Iron beam No. 14 (per unit)	120,000-170,000	150,000	-20,000
Iron beam No. 15	150,000-240,000	220,000	-20,000
Iron beam No. 18	180,000-330,000	300,000	-30,000
Iron beam No. 20	580,000	560,000	-20,000
Angle iron, various sizes (per kg)	850-2,000	850-2,000	0
[illegible] (per kg)	1,600-2,300	1,600-2,300	0
Black sheet metal, various sizes	1,000-1,700	1,000-1,700	0
Galvanized sheet metal, various sizes	1,700-3,400	1,700-3,400	0
[Illegible] sheet metal, various sizes	1,000-2,000	1,000-2,000	0
Plain metal rods, various sizes	920-1,300	920-1,300	0
Edged iron rods, various sizes	950-1,550	900-1,500	-50 and -50
Light Nos. 2 and 3 galvanized pipes (per unit)	15,000-22,000	18,000-28,000	+6,000 and +3,000
Heavy Nos. 2 and 3 galvanized pipes	15,000-22,000	19,000-28,000	-6,000 and +4,000
Group 2 assorted framing strips (per kg)	1,700-1,900	1,700-1,900	0
Aluminum framing strips	4,500-4,800	4,500-4,800	0
Ahvaz half-inch to two-inch natural gas pipes (per unit)	16,000-38,000	19,000-39,000	+1,000 and +3,000
Imported half-inch to 12-inch natural gas pipes (per unit)	36,000-38,000	29,000-39,000	+1,000 and +3,000
Black cement (per bag)	4,500-5,000	4,500-5,000	0
White cement	13,000-15,000	13,000-18,000	+3,000 and 0
Plaster (per bag)	2,200-2,500	2,000-2,500	0 and -200

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Kind of Goods	Week Ending on 12/04/74 [3 July 1995]	Week Ending on 19/04/1374 [10 July 1995]	Changes
Bricks (per ton)	26,000	26,000	0
Chenapil [as published], 90-100 width (per yard)	1,350-1,500	1,350-1,500	0
16 mm pressed wood (per sheet)	48,000	48,000	0
Gabon plywood (per sheet)	38,000	38,000	0
Plain 3-4 mm pane glass (per square meter)	5,000-7,000	5,000-7,000	0
Oil paint (per kg)	4,500-10,000	4,500-8,500	-1,500 and 0
Various types of latex paint (per gallon)	10,000-25,000	6,500-24,000	-1,000 and -3,500
Rust-proofing (per kg)	3,500-6,500	3,500-6,000	-500 and 0
Twin sink faucets (per unit)	25,000-28,000	25,000-30,000	+2,000 and 0
Single kitchen sink (per unit)	105,000-110,000	80,000-100,000	-1,000 and -25,000
Sa'di tile (per square meter)	10,000-12,000	8,000-13,000	+1,000 and -2,000
Plain sink (per unit)	25,000	25,000	0
Wallpaper (per roll)	1,300	1,300	0
Azmayesh 6-ft refrigerator	550,000	550,000	0
Arj 10-ft refrigerator	770,000	723,000	-47,000
Pars 14-inch black-and-white television	268,000	268,000	0
Azmayesh fully automatic washing machine	1,135,000	1,020,000-1,130,000	-5,000 and 115,000
35-piece melamine set (per set)	20,000-135,000	20,00-130,000	-5,000 and 0
11-kg butane gas tank	45,000	45,000	0
Kebriti [machine made] carpet (per square meter)	9,000	9,500	+500
Kashan Ravand power-loomed carpet	650,000	650,000	0
Kavir-e Yazd plain power-loomed carpet	950,000-970,000	980,000	+1,000 and +3,000

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Addresses UN Assembly

BK2410165895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1623 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Address by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to special session of UN General Assembly in New York — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, fifty years ago this day, men and women of vision assembled to create an organization to save the world from war. The principle of equal rights and self- determination lay at the heart of that charter. Millions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America owe their freedom to the pursuit by this organization of those noble ideals. We celebrate this achievement. For 50 years, there has been no global conflict. We celebrate this great achievements. We applaud the United Nations humanitarian and peacekeeping intervention to which the brave sons of Pakistan have contributed with their own blood. We welcome the United Nations efforts to emphasize social issues, including on population, on social development, on women, and on human settlement.

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Mr. President! The threat of global conflict has receded. But the images of suffering in Kashmir, in Bosnia, and other regions have saddened us all. And, although foreign occupation of Afghanistan has ended, Pakistan has been left to carry the burden of 1.5 million refugees. The United Nations needs to share this burden and strengthen its efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

So, as we celebrate the achievements of the United Nations, we pose for self-criticism and self-appraisal. The secretary general has described the Kashmir dispute as one of the oldest items on the United Nations agenda. Forty-eight years of occupation has not crushed the spirit of a noble people committed to the right of self-determination, committed to the ideals of the United Nations, placing their hope on the United Nations pledge to hold a plebiscite to determine their future. Do not close your hearts, your mind, to the torments of Kashmir.

Mr. President! Global interdependence is a reality. U Thant said: It is not starry idealism, but instinctive sense of survival that brings us all here.

Survival today means a common effort to reduce poverty, hunger and disease; to save our environment; to address human needs; to prevent social disintegration; and to restore moral value as the foundation for the action of individual and nation. Survival means greater democratization within nation and within the international system.

The Security Council needs enlargement but not in its permanent membership. An undersecretary general should be appointed to give greater emphasis to poverty alleviation. Peacekeeping and conflict resolution mechanism need strengthening. I invite member states to Islamabad for a conference for this purpose next year.

It is insufficient for us to denounce atrocities in Rwanda, Bosnia and Kashmir. The perpetrators must be punished. We should create an international criminal court for this purpose.

And in the age of the information highway, we need to distinguish between the freedom of expression; the freedom of action; and the freedom to pervert, to pollute and to destroy. New challenges face us. Terrorism, the narcotics trade, arms smuggling are some of the evils that know no boundaries. To meet these challenges we need the United Nations. To meet these challenges, the United Nations needs an independent financial base. For this, a tax on international financial transactions, on international travel, on the exploitation of space or the ocean can be considered.

Today, the responsibility for the future rests on our shoulders. Let us not shirk from that responsibility. Let us remember the words of the philosopher Spinoza that peace is not merely the absence of war, it is a virtue that springs from the character.

Thank you Mr. President. [applause]

Accord for Oil Pipeline From Turkmenistan Approved

BK2210114895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has approved a multinational agreement for laying an oil pipeline between Turkmenistan and Karachi through Afghanistan. Makhdum Amin Fahim, federal minister for housing and construction, reported on the approval of this agreement by the prime minister. Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, as well as a U.S. and Saudi firm signed the agreement in New York. Every day, about 750,000 barrels of crude oil will be transported from Turkmenistan to a terminal in Karachi through the proposed 1,500 to 2,000 kilometer long pipeline. The project is expected to cost $5 billion. The cooperation and possible participation of Afghanistan in the project is essential, which is feasible only after normalization of the situation there. U.S. and Saudi investors will form a consortium to build the pipeline to supply gas to power projects.

Editorial Welcomes Pipeline

BK2310101495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Oct 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Pak-Turkmenistan Pipeline"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Foreign Secretary, has praised Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her "imaginative and courageous" decision to lay an oil and gas pipeline between Turkmenistan and Pakistan capable of transporting 750,000 barrels a day and 2 million cubic feet of gas per day, and sufficient to generate 10,000 MW of electricity. Pakistan is certainly not the first country to lay a pipeline for purchase of gas and oil from another country so in that sense the proposal is not quite "imaginative". But the fact that the proposal envisages transport through Afghanistan, a country where civil war is raging, makes it not only "imaginative" but also "courageous" because reliance would be placed on a source that can be cut off by an Afghan Government that may or may not be hostile to Pakistan. Or, in other words, national security could well be compromised, which accounts for the courageousness of Ms Bhutto's decision.

Nonetheless, for this part of the world where regional conflicts abound, the decision to lay a pipeline may well

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herald the dawn of an era when economic cooperation will form the basis of all relationships in the region. The fact that the laying of the pipeline would reduce our oil import bill because of reduced transport costs and raise employment levels because the laying of the pipeline would require labour reflect some of the economic benefits that can accrue from such a deal for both the countries. While of official sources claim that "it is difficult to predict when the first delivery of Turkmen gas (and oil) to Pakistan can be achieved" yet it is a step in the right direction. South Asia has to learn to harness resources from other countries for its own development. And it has to learn to give top priority to economic uplift of its teeming populations because that alone will pay dividends in the political and the international arena. Besides, history provides us with proof that conflicts are resolved in favour of that country which is the richer. In that sense Ms Bhutto's decision certainly has merit.

IRNA Previews Bhutto's Upcoming Visit to Iran

LD2410190395 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 24, IRNA — In the course of the forthcoming three-day visit of Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by ministers and high ranking officials to Tehran starting November 6, several economic and cultural agreements will be signed, an informed source said here on Tuesday [24 October].

Pakistani official said the agenda for the talks between the Pakistani prime minister and top Iranian officials in Tehran, include the current situation in Afghanistan, Kashmir and the world of Islam. He added that her visit is specifically significant in the light of the latest developments taking shape in the region.

This would be her second visit to Tehran since her coming to power as a premier.

Bhutto is expected to pay a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mashhad where the Muslim pilgrims from throughout the world come to the magnificent shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam, and the rightful successor of the household of the prophet (s).

Ms. Bhutto will break the ground for the construction of a residential quarters for Pakistani pilgrims visiting holy Mashhad.

Bhutto Assures Political Support to Kashmiris

BK2210114795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has assured the chairman of All Parties Kashmir Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Mohammad Umar Farooq, that Pakistan will continue to extend diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people in the struggle for self-determination. The assurance was given to him when the Mir Waiz called on her in New York yesterday. The prime minister conveyed to the Mir Waiz of fullest appreciation on the effective way he was pleading the Kashmiri cause in a comprehensive manner. The prime minister said the Mir Waiz while pleading the Kashmir case had left a very deep impression on the ministerial meeting of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] at New York.

The Mir Waiz thanked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for projecting and highlighting the Kashmir issue. He again said India's plan to hold fraudulent elections in occupied Kashmir will be rejected by the Kashmiris and the world at large.

Kashmiri Leaders Reportedly Arrested During March

BK2410123395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference took a UN day barefoot procession in Srinagar today to protest against the Indian repression despite blockade by occupation troops. Indian troops used brute force to disperse the processionists and also arrested Syed Ali Gilani, Khwaja Abdul Gani Lone, and Mr. Mohammad Yasin Malik, who were leading the procession. Reports say Indian forces blocked the procession at the very start to prevent it from proceeding to the UN Headquarters to present a memorandum. One of the Hurriyat Conference leaders, Khwaja Abdul Gani Lone, defied the restriction. He was severely beaten up and later arrested. A number of demonstrators, who grappled with Indian troops, were injured. The three arrested leaders have been taken to the Kotribagh police station. An unannounced curfew has also been imposed in areas around the Mir Waiz Manzil and downtown Srinagar and Indian troops were patrolling all over Srinagar. Meanwhile, a spokesman for [Kashmiri leader] Shabir Ahamed Shah told newsmen in Srinagar that he was not allowed to come out of his house to participate in the demonstration.

Kashmiris living in Rawalpindi also took out a procession today in support of the demand for right of self-determination. They marched from Liaqatbad up to the UN Military Observers Mission. They were carrying placards and banners demanding the UN and international community to help achieve freedom. In Lahore, leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Punjab, staged a token hunger strike in front the assembly chambers to register their protest over the failure

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of the world body in solving the Kashmir issue. They demanded implementation of the United Nations resolutions and to allow the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination.

Sindh Minister Says India Backing Altaf Group

BK2410103495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Oct 95 p 16

[Report by Ansarullah Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Sindh Chief Minister [CM] Syed Abdullah Shah has said that Altaf Hussain was never a politician rather playing as an instrument of the anti-Pakistan elements. He was talking to newsmen at Peshawar Press Club, at "Meet the Press" here on Monday [23 October].

The Chief Minister said that Pakistan could not be divided on the basis of languages, adding that Karachi was a mini-Pakistan where people, speaking different languages, were living. He said that Altaf Hussain in fact was the follower of another philosophy, to create disturbance on the soil of Pakistan and serve the interests of India.

He went on saying that India was involved in the massacre of Muslims in Kashmir, but was showing sympathies with Altaf group, through both the print and electronic media. He said that Altaf Hussain was not the sole representative of Urdu-speaking population in Karachi, adding that in different areas, even Altaf had failed to secure majority votes.

He said that now the people of Karachi were realising that Altaf was never their well-wisher.

The CM said that Pakistan was a democratic country, but the way Altaf was trying to achieve his rights, was undemocratic. He said "We have got good proofs of Indian involvement in Karachi.

He said that both ZEE TV and Indian electronic and print media was always active to project Altaf Hussain whereas also misleading literature from India was distributed to Karachiites, through mail. He said that India wanted to settle her score with Pakistan, by creating disturbance and Karachi was chosen for this purpose. To a question he said that law and order in Sindh was the responsibility of Sindh government and, therefore, Sindh government accepted this challenge without getting army involved in this crisis. Abdullah Shah asked as to how Altaf Hussain could afford to stay in England and run such a big and expensive campaign, adding that he had some "pay masters". He said that even-Indian-made arms had been recovered from terrorists and also they had confessed to have been trained in India.

About interior minister's role, the Sindh CM said that Nasirullah Babar was not controlling Sindh situation, but he was helping in coordination of various agencies adding that only in Karachi there were up to 2 million illegal immigrants, who are to be dealt with by the federal government. He said that Sindh government so far had arrested up to 600 terrorists, killing some 100 whereas terrorists between 3,000 to 4,000 were still at large.

India Said To Extend Military Exercises on Border

BK2310100095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Amir Mateen]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad - Indian military is conducting unusually long exercises for this winter along its border with Pakistan, which should have every reason to feel alarmed about Indian intentions.

Intelligence sources say that India plans to extend this winter's exercises to six months as opposed to usual 30 days. These extraordinary military exercises will keep the Pakistan Army alerted, like in 1986 when a similar exercises codenamed Brasstacks brought the two countries almost to the brink of war. When military's official mouth piece Inter Services Public Relations was approached for comments, it did not confirm that. But then they did not deny it either.

The report, if true, is likely to further raise tension between the two countries. This development becomes even more alarming because it coincides with India's ever increasing violations on the Line of Control [LoC] in Kashmir. According to reports rolling in from the LoC there is virtually a miniwar going on there. Indian forces are firing at everything that moves near the LoC, bombarding civilian population day in and day out Local military sources confirm that of late India has been mounting pressure on the LoC.

The scenario becomes further scary if the belligerent mood of the Indian leadership is taken into account. The sabre-rattling had been more than obvious in the statements issued by Indian leaders in the last few weeks. Indian Premier Narasimha Rao has hinted about waging a war against Pakistan more than once in the last two weeks.

Even at the recent NAM [Non-Aligned Movement] conference he made it a point to mention about the 'unfinished Indian agenda,' an obvious hint about annexing Azad Kashmir.

Hawks in the Indian establishment, say observers, may be considering this an ideal time for intimidating

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Pakistan, especially when it has a crisis in Karachi, an utterly polarised polity and a demoralised Army after they recent arrest of about two dozen officers including a Major General. the advantage in missile developments may have been another factor contributing to the hostile Indian mood.

Narasimha Rao, who faces elections next year, also needs to counter the ever aggressive BJP. the only way he can outwit them is by going two steps ahead of them in his anti-Pakistan rhetoric. But this large-scale military exercises mostly focused on the Rajhistan sector may be more than simple rhetoric.

Defense Minister Views Indian Military Exercises

BK2510062995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, has said there is nothing to worry about the Indian military exercises in Rajasthan sector. He was talking to newsmen at the UN anniversary function held in Islamabad yesterday. He said during his forthcoming visit to Egypt, he will explore avenues of cooperation for joint defense production.

Soldiers Urged To Stay Away From Politics

BK1910155495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Politics Is for Politicians: COAS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore (APP) — General Abdul Waheed, Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] has advised the troops to fully concentrate on attaining professional knowledge to make Pakistan Army an invincible fighting force.

According to an ISPR [Interservices Public Relations] press release, addressing a special darbar [assembly] of a battalion of the Azad Kashmir Regiment which he commanded in early stage of his career, the Chief of the Army Staff particularly mentioned about the rumours concerning stoppage of commutation of pension. He stated that though the government had negated the news on various occasions, people were still doubtful about it. The darbar went into thunderous applause when he categorically assured that "there never was nor will there be any stoppage or reduction in commutation.

There will be no change in the prevalent system. Rest assured the GHQ [General Headquarters] is fully alive to the situation and shall protect the interests of the troops".

The Chief of the Army Staff once again reiterated in the darbar arranged to commemorate the 30th Raising Day of the Battalion, that Army was apolitical and was pursuing its professional obligations. "Politics is for the politicians and Army remains fully committed to its duties as soldiers", he remarked and urged the troops not to waste their time and energy on matters not concerning them. He advised them to have confidence in their command and concentrate on the tasks assigned to them.

The Chief of the Army Staff, who is also the Colonel-in-Chief of the Azad Kashmir Regiment, paid rich tributes to the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the battalion who had rendered meritorious services for the cause of the national defence. Recalling the heroic deeds of valour performed by the Battalion in Azad Kashmir at Qazi Nag during the 1971 War, General Abdul Waheed said the unit can be rightly proud of its history.

The Chief of the Army Staff said the valuable contributions made by the battalions of Azad Kashmir Regiment for the cause of UN peace-keeping in Cambodia, Bosnia and now at Haiti are reminiscent of the glorious traditions set forth by their predecessor and hoped that its officers and jawans shall continue their unit but also for the army as a whole.

Bhutto Government Offers Term Extension to General

BK2310095895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Oct 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed may accept the offer of the government of one year extension after his return from England where he is on a 5-day visit, sources informed.

General Abdul Waheed has been offered twice one year extensions by the government. A representative of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] twice during the last month and informed him about the "desire" of the prime minister that he (Waheed) should remain as the COAS for another year "as nation needs him".

Sources told The Frontier Post that Gen. Waheed rejected the first extension offer, but receiving the same on second time he discussed it with some of his confidantes.

According to sources the Chief of the Army Staff have conveyed to the government that he would respond (either reject or accept) to the offer in December this year. "Now it depends upon the consent of the army chief as the government has decided to give him extension of one year" said a source.

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The three years tenure of the army chief is due to expire in the first week of January next year.

The army chief, according to sources, could be given extension in two ways. Either he would be given one year extension in addition to his three-year of the chief of the army staff.

According to sources the later proposal is also under consideration in the power corridors.

It is pertinent note here that there are many who want that the tenure of the chief of the army should be four years.

However, there are some in the close circles of the army chief who have advised him not to accept the offer of the government as it would vindicate the allegations of a "tilt" by certain quarters. These people are said to have advised the army chief to accept the offer to the extent of making army chief to accept the offer to the extent of making army chief's tenure four year. But the proposal must be implemented after his (Waheed) retirement too.

Sources further told that the Chief of the Army Staff may take a decision early in order to prevent the grind machine of rumours and speculation from playing its "dirty" role.

Gen. Abdul Waheed would not be the first army chief to get extensions as former Chief of the Army Staff, General Musa served as army chief for more than a decade. Whereas, late Gen. Zia sticked to office of COAS for almost ten years. However, notable aspect of Gen. Waheed's extension would be that a civilian government would grant extension to the army chief for the first time, sources went on to say.

They added that the impact of extension (in case Gen. Waheed accepts the offer) would be that a number of lieutenant generals who could be considered for the COAS slot would retire premature next year.

Petition Said Filed for Release of Army Officers

BK2410075895 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Oct 95 p 1

["Bureau report"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Oct 22 — An habeas corpus petition has been moved in the Lahore High Court to challenge the arrest and detention of some army officers and civilians.

The petition seeking the release of the detainees has been filed by advocate Rashid Murtaza Qureshi on behalf of fellow lawyers Khan Yunus Khan of Lahore and Naeem Raza Khan of Kasur and a leader of the Christian community Bishop Rt Rev Kenneth Leslie Orr.

Citing Press reports, the petitioners said the detainees were working for a 'noble cause' of contributing to the 'Jihad' in the occupied Kashmir.

They have been described as fundamentalists, which seems the manifest cause of their arrest, according to the petition.

The petitioners request the court not to feel hampered by any consideration such as want of jurisdiction.

Paper Analyzes Reason Behind 'Plot'

BK2410150595 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Oct 95 p 11

["Comment" by Tahir Mirza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAHORE: There is understandable concern at last week's discovery of a plot concocted by some elements within the army allegedly to destabilize the existing political order.

An official and authoritative statement about the aims and objects of the plotters is still awaited, and it may well turn out that they were simply involved in gun-running or other such "unprofessional" activity. However, newspaper reports, not contradicted so far, have suggested that the people implicated had wanted to bring about some kind of an "Islamic revolution".

If this turns out to be true, then it will have to be studied in the context of the proselytizing influence of Gen Ziaul Haq on the armed forces, his calculated moves to patronize mullahism [rule by clergy] in every sphere of life, his habit of looking the other way as military intelligence officials meddled in Afghanistan and other foreign policy areas as well as in domestic politics, and the view being recently projected by various pseudo-political and intellectual circles that there is something wrong with the existing system, which needs to be changed. It is interesting that doubts about the "system" are often aired only when a political and elected government is in power. Some of the disenchantment is no doubt genuine, considering the mess that democratic governments make of running the affairs of the country, and the unbridled corruption in which they indulge. But much of it exhibits only a yearning among vested interests for a tightly-controlled, authoritarian set-up.

When Gen Zia was chief of the army staff, THE PAKISTAN TIMES had received an anonymous letter from an officer saying that during a visit to the army establishment in Multan, the general had distributed copies of Maulana Maudoodi's commentary on the Holy Quran to all ranks. The officer had wondered whether

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it was right for an army chief to attempt any form of indoctrination of the military. Needless to say, the letter was not published, but shortly thereafter Gen Zia had taken over and launched his "Islamisation" drive. The seeds sown by him continue to sprout in various fields.

The officer corps of the armed forces is said, over the years, to have developed greater roots among the middle and lower-middle classes, and is therefore in closer touch with the people. If there is dissatisfaction or cynicism with the system in these groups or if they are now more religiously motivated, it is inevitable that this should be reflected in the armed forces also.

But it is another matter if deliberate efforts are made to influence the military by any particular political or religious organisation, and both the government and the military leadership should be duly on guard against any such moves. Without being aware of all the facts, Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed has rushed into print to say that the officers involved in the plot were God fearing Muslims and that one of them had even been harassed by Indian intelligence when he was posted in New Delhi, implying thereby that they are somehow being victimized for their religious and patriotic zeal.

The freedom apparently enjoyed by some retired and serving military men to dabble on their own in Afghanistan and Kashmir also requires to be reviewed.

It is clear that this has encouraged a cavalier-like attitude among some people, and they have begun to think that they alone are now carrying the nation's cross. It is understandable if ambitious civilians wanting to enter the political arena should seek out such elements and look for their advice and guidance.

The government can argue that there will always be misguided and bigoted people around. But this would be a highly naive and simplistic way of looking at the situation.

It ought to be seriously worried, about the increasing disenchantment with its performance as it nears its two-year mark in power.

Those who were allegedly conspiring to bring about a change must, after all, have banked on some measure of public support. The government should also review its appeasement of "fundamentalist" forces in the Northern Areas, in Afghanistan and in politics at home. You give them an inch, and they will take all.

The army high command and intelligence agencies should be praised for nipping any planned mischief in the bud.

After 20 years of military rule, the country's democratic and political system is still wobbling on its feet. Any new intervention in any form, organized or disorganized, would deal a terrible blow to the country.

Thus, there may be many valuable lessons to be learnt from last week's developments. Meanwhile, the public has a right to know all the facts as soon as the current investigations into the plot are completed.

Sri Lanka

President Urges UN Action To Combat 'Terrorism'

BK2310112795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking at the United Nations, President Chandrika Kumaratunga yesterday called for concerted international action to combat terrorism and to compel terrorists to renounce violence and enter the democratic process. The president told the UN special 50th anniversary meeting that unfortunately effective action to that end had been frustrated through sterile philosophical debate about the nature of terrorism. She noted that although Sri Lanka ranked high among the developing countries in the index of human development, we have been traumatized by ethnic tension kept unnaturally high by the forces of terrorism and chauvinism.

President Meets Leaders at UN Anniversary Session

BK2410130495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has explained the current developments in Sri Lanka to some of the world leaders who were present for the UN anniversary celebrations in New York. She had informal bilateral meetings with the Indonesian president, the Pakistani prime minister, the Chinese president, and the Bangladeshi prime minister. She also met among other world leaders the U.S. President and the South African president informally.

President Kumaratunga responding to interest and concern in the situation in Sri Lanka explained that the present military offensive was unavoidable. This is because the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had not positively responded to the peace initiative of the government. Sri Lanka remained committed to the peaceful negotiations of ethnic issues. The continued resort to violence and terrorism by the LTTE was a major obstacle to such a peaceful approach.

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During the meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, China's relationship with Sri Lanka was emphasized. China fully appreciated efforts made by the government to achieve national reconciliation and a peaceful solution to the internal problem. China was grateful for Sri Lanka's support for the one-China policy.

President Kumaratunga during talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reviewed the relationship between the two countries. Meeting for the first time, they discussed their respective economic policies. In response to an interest expressed by Pakistan's prime minister, the Sri Lankan president explained the proposed constitutional changes.

The president also met the prime minister of Bangladesh Khaleda Zia. They explored cooperation within the context of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The inauguration of regular flights between the two countries was among the matters discussed. She exchanged views during a meeting with Indonesian President Suharto on the current international situation and the role that nonaligned and developing countries should play to protect the interest of their people. The need to develop greater solidarity and mutually benefiting links among developing countries was stressed.

In a meeting with her South African counterpart Nelson Mandela, her earlier discussions in Copenhagen were recalled. President Mandela praised Mrs. Kumaratunga's courageous peace initiatives and expressed the wish that they would succeed. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar and officials were associated in the talks.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was briefed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga on the current situation in Sri Lanka. This included the publication of the government's peace proposal. She told the UN chief that military action by the government was unavoidable to counter the LTTE. She said that the vast majority of the Tamil people preferred peace and negotiations. Dr. Butrus-Ghali expressed full support for the peace process. He said that the UN would be happy to extend assistance to Sri Lanka in any way it wished.

The president had cordial discussions with her Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin on improvement of bilateral relations. She attended a special banquet hosted by President Clinton.

Korea To Provide Funds for Infrastructure Projects

BK1810141195 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0635 GMT 18 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 18 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — Korea has undertaken to fund five projects in the health, highways, telecommunications, power and housing sectors under a rs. [rupees] five billion soft loan it had agreed to grant Sri Lanka.

A Memoranda of Understanding was signed on Friday [13 October] for the rehabilitation of Gampaha, Negombo and Colombo South hospitals, Horana and Gampaha telecommunication development projects and the power distribution system project. Funds for these projects will be provided immediately.

The Korean delegation headed by Mr. Joong Won Chin, executive director of the Korean Economic Agency, which was in Sri Lanka last week conducted a preliminary survey of the projects Sri Lanka has proposed for Korean assistance and accepted them. The delegation decided that funding for the Ratnapura-Beragala highway rehabilitation project and the housing project for public servants will be considered later this year. The delegation has accepted the projects as worthy of support.

"This is the first time Korea has extended financial assistance to Sri Lanka. This is a good beginning", said a Finance Ministry spokesman. The Korean decision to fund infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, follows a meeting President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar had with Korean president and the foreign minister in April in Copenhagen and the visit of the Korean delegation to Sri Lanka in April.

President Creates Civil Force To Maintain Peace

BK2410125595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president has gazetted legislation providing for the formation of a supplementary force known as the Civil Defense Force [CDF]. It will help in maintaining peace in the country. The force will support and assist the police. The aim of this exercise is to obtain fullest participation of the people in maintaining peace. The force will consist of not more than 20 units and each unit would have under 2,500 members. The government points out that the CDF is essential to cooperate, with participation of the community, during national crises and disasters to provide instant relief to the affected. The CDF would operate at the district, divisional and [words indistinct] divisional level. Even

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nongovernmental organizations can take part in the activities of this force.

Official sources point out that a grass-roots-level organization with wide participation was essential to minimize the adverse effects of the prevailing war situation in the north that is bound to be experienced in other parts of the country. It is also being stressed that the program should be carried forward, rising above ethnic, political, religious, and other differences as a truly people's movement.

'Terrorists,' 29 Soldiers Said Killed in Fighting

BK2410124795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] have confronted LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in several places during their advance. According to the operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry, the terrorists retreated when they were attacked with small mortars and artillery. Several LTTE mortar positions were neutralized.

The security forces estimate that over 75 terrorists were killed and 150 injured as a result of the fighting on Sunday [22 October]. The security forces lost two officers and 27 soldiers in the confrontation. Four officers and 47 soldiers were wounded. The operation in Jaffna continues.

Meanwhile, troops have killed five terrorists in an ambush near Sittandi in the Batticaloa District. The bodies of two LTTE cadres were recovered along with some arms and ammunition.

Jaffna 'Final Battle' Nears; Forces 'Digging In'

BK2510073195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP) — Security forces began consolidating their gains in Tamil Tigers territory in northern Sri Lanka after battles that left 580 dead on both sides, the military said Wednesday [25 October].

Soldiers were digging in and strengthening newly established positions in the Jaffna peninsula before a final battle for the town of Jaffna, a spokesman said.

The army is said to be just eight kilometres (five miles) from the town.

"There was sporadic fighting overnight but no casualties. We were hoping there would be some action. But there was no initiative from the terrorists yesterday," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said Operation Riviresa (sunshine) launched nine days ago against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inside the Jaffna peninsula stronghold will continue.

The final objective is Jaffna town, the symbol of Tamil separatism in the country and the headquarters of the Tamil Tigers, the spokesman said.

The LTTE has vowed to defend Jaffna to the last man but the rebels have no known key military installations within the town where they have had a relatively free run in the past five years.

The air force on Tuesday bombed suspected LTTE targets at the village of Neerveli, northeast of Jaffna and ground troops were poised to enter the village at any moment, defence sources said.

The LTTE in a statement from its London office said more than 200,000 Tamil civilians had been turned into refugees and most we@e arriving in Jaffna town.

However, Munasinghe said the number was higher but that civilians were fleeing the peninsula to seeking shelter on the northern mainland where there was no fighting.

"Tigers are making a packet ferrying people across the Jaffna lagoon and taking them to Kilinochchi (on the main land). But we are happy that civilians are leaving so that they don't get caught up in the cross fire," he said.

Munasinghe said 125 soldiers had been killed and nearly 400 wounded in fighting since the latest operation was launched. He said 455 Tiger cadres were killed, a claim disputed by the Tigers.

"It is true we are taking heavy casualties. This (offensive) is by no means is a cake-walk. But for the Tigers the losses are much heavier and that is why they are now going for civilian targets," Munasinghe said.

He was referring to the alleged LTTE massacre of 92 Sinhalese civilians in four remote hamlets and Tiger suicide attack against Colombo's two main oil storage depots at the weekend.

Western diplomats said as the battle for Jaffna, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of the capital, escalates, there could be more bomb attacks in Colombo.

Diplomats said most western embassies had asked their nationals in the capital to keep a low profile.

The United Nations 50th anniversary celebrations at which Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike was to be the chief guest were cancelled Tuesday amid fears of rebel attacks, officials said.

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The Tigers were virtually handed Jaffna by former president Ranasinghe Premadasa during his aborted talks with the rebels between 1989 and 1990, when he made common cause with the rebels to get Indian troops out of the island.

Premadasa ordered out Indian peace-keeping troops which battled the LTTE in line with a bilateral peace pact with the Colombo government. Premadasa fell victim in May 1993 to an assassination blamed on the Tigers.

The LTTE is fighting to establish an independent homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka for the country's two million minority Tamils. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war.

'Terrorist' Behind Oil Installation Fire Arrested

BK2410152295 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1348 GMT 24 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 24 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — The police today arrested the terrorist who directed and masterminded the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Black Tiger suicide squad raids which set fire to the Kolonnawa and Urugodawatte oil installations in the early hours of Friday [20 October] morning.

Senior deputy inspector general of police H.M.G.B. Kotakadeniya told LANKAPUVATH that the arrested terrorist had run the two raids from a fixed point, presumably through a VHF [very high frequency] radio transmitter from a fixed point.

He said the police had made swift progress in their investigations into the guerrilla raids and arrested 15 suspects.

The police have also seized a truck and a van which the terrorists used for the raids and [in which] several weapons including T-56 rifles, rocket propelled grenades and pistols, were transported. Nine of the 15 terrorists comprising the two groups of raiders were killed by the security forces.

The raiders also carried bombs in jackets strapped to their chests. These electronically detonated plastic explosives [operate] by two switches connected to batteries. The bombs were highly lethal and packed with bicycle ball bearings.

However well planned the raids were, the terrorists missed their main target which were the petrol tanks which [are] in zone 2 of the sprawling 95 acre Kolonnawa oil installation, but instead set fire to two kerosene tanks and a diesel tank at Urugodawatte.

Meanwhile, security throughout Colombo city and suburbs has been greatly strengthened and all key installations throughout the country have been placed under maximum security.

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